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THE MARYLAND FARMER:

DEVOTED TO

Agriculture, Horticulture, Rural Economy & Mechanic Arts.

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INDIAN CORN—ITS VALUE, CULTURE, AND USES.

The above is the title of a small book which was published a short time ago by Appleton & Co., of New York. The writer is evidently one who has thoroughly mastered the subject on which he treats, and although he advances no novel views, he has carefully collected together from the best sources, a mass of matter relating to Corn and its cultivation, and has embodied it in the book now before us, in a clear and forcible style. We propose to extract from this clever treatise, some of the points which are of the greatest practical value to those who are interested in the culture of this, the noblest of our cereals. At the same time, we cordially commend the book itself to all who can procure it. The author of this useful work, pays at the commencement of his volume, what we would fain believe to be a well merited compliment to the Agricultural Press, and frankly acknowledges his obligations to a number of those journals, among which we are happy to find the name of one with which we were formerly connected, and in whose success we were deeply, because pecuniarily interested. We allude to the *Rural Register*. The publication of the *Register* ceased at the commencement of the war. We may say here in passing, that we trust the *Maryland Farmer* will not be found wholly unworthy of the commendation which was bestowed upon its predecessor. But to return to the book before us. The author, into his introductions, puts the highest yield of Corn per acre yet reached, at two hundred bushels; urges warmly the organization of Farmers' Clubs, and a wider diffusion of Agricultural journals. The number of copies of the latter now circulated, he estimates at about a third of a million. We doubt, however, if anything like these figures are really reached. This would give one subscriber to every ten land owners engaged in farming pursuits, and about one in fifty of the entire farming population. According to the census of 1860, the Corn crop of that year amounted in the aggregate,

to eight hundred millions of bushels, which was five times greater than the produce of wheat, and three millions in excess of the combined crops of wheat, rye, oats, barley, buckwheat, peas, beans and potatoes. The value of the Corn crop in 1860, at sixty cents a bushel—a high average, taken the whole country over—was seven hundred and three millions, two hundred and seventy-five thousand, six hundred and forty-four dollars. Taking the ratio of increase between 1840 and 1860, and the same valuation as before, the value of the yield in 1870 ought to be one thousand and fifty-four millions, nine hundred and thirteen thousand, four hundred and sixty-six dollars. [This calculation, however, would be apt to mislead, if it were accepted as one that is likely to prove correct under existing circumstances. What might have been cannot now occur. The disorganized labor system of the South, will, in all probability, reduce for a number of years yet to come, the aggregate annual produce of Corn below that of 1860.] In point of nutrition, Corn is second only to wheat, whilst in its fattening properties it far surpasses the latter. By seasonable planting, due attention to the selection of seed, and tolerable care in respect to after culture, the produce of Corn is more certain than any other grain. Its average per acre has been calculated at about thirty-two bushels. [Too large.] The largest yield per acre yet known, was two hundred bushels. This being the yield of a single acre upon the farm of Doctor Parker, of South Carolina. It will thus be seen that there remains a wide margin between the average product of the country and the highest yield yet attained, and under favorable circumstances really attainable. Then follows a description of the different varieties of Corn, and the mode in which it germinates. One curious fact is stated which we should like to see confirmed. It is this—that although the rows of grain vary from eight to thirty-six, they are always an even number. The product of a single ear is estimated in a general average, at about five ounces. What follows is particularly worthy of attention.

In planting, the quality of the seed has a most

material influence upon the amount of the resulting crop. No man who neglects this essential point, can place any reliance upon his yield. The following rules are given as a guide: "Start with a good variety, using none but the best grain. Select your seed from those stalks that have the most ears, taking the best from it. The earliest ripe is to be preferred, unless otherwise objectionable. Those stalks that bear their ears nearest the ground are the best to choose from, provided the ear be good. Select only such ears as are large and fair, with a kernel of a bright, clear color. Prefer those ears in which the rows are most regular, and the grains most uniform in size. Choose those ears that taper the least, having their butts but little larger than their tops. Take the central grains only from each ear for seed, as it has been proved that the kernels taken from near the end of the cob give a smaller yield, and an inferior grain. In buying seed, choose that raised in a colder, rather than in a warmer climate."

It would be difficult to over-estimate the value of many of the above rules. The difference between forty and sixty bushels per acre may prove a mere question of seed. No amount of tillage with an inferior grain, will give other than an inferior crop. *"The grain should never be soaked before planting, in powerful solutions, as they tend to produce a morbid and not a healthy growth."* A moderate coating of tar, diluted with water, is the best protection in localities where the enemies of the seed are numerous and destructive. Gas or coal tar is to be preferred. It should be used only in limited quantities, and applied as evenly as possible. In respect to the proper time to plant, no specific rule can be given. The safest period generally, in the Middle States, is about the first of May. [A good guide is the bursting of the apple blossoms.] No Corn should be planted so long as the ground is cold and moist. It is imperative that the soil should be warm enough to protect the vitality of the grain and promote its speedy growth. Before planting, the farmer should thoroughly understand his soil. Corn, and all cereals require, to perfect the grain and stalk, the following constituents, in varying proportions, viz: Potash, soda, lime, and silica an ample supply—and as equally requisite, though in much smaller quantities, alumina, oxide of iron, oxide of manganese, sulphuric and phosphoric acid and chlorine—all these are to be found in the ashes of the plants, and also in all fertile soils. It is not only necessary that the soil should contain these constituents, which constitute the nutriment—the plant food—of all cereals, but that they should be in that soluble state as is best fitted to nourish the growing plants. The writer thinks lightly of analyses of soils, but here we must disagree with him. We do not think that any analysis of the soil can be perfect, but it will

certainly show wherein a soil is deficient, so far as its most important constituents are concerned. What follows has our hearty assent. In the preparation of soil, the basis of all good farming is deep ploughing, subsoiling (where the nature of the subsoil admits of it,) and thorough disintegration. The manure applied should be rich, well rotted, and evenly distributed. Sandy soils may be materially improved by clay, ashes, and marl, as a preparation, to be followed subsequently by stable manure, or by green crops ploughed under. The land can hardly be made too rich for so gross a feeder as Corn. The standard manure for this crop, as well as the most certain and most permanent, is that which is drawn from the barn yard and the compost heap evenly distributed, and all the hard compact masses broken up. Next to this Peruvian Guano mixed with bone dust finely ground is the best.

The proper depth of earth covering the seed, varies from one inch on heavy lands to three inches on light. The writer strongly recommends the drill in planting, as preferable to the old method, and in a thoroughly pulverized soil its advantage is manifest: but where clods remain, and where tufts of grass are sprinkled over the field, the hoe must follow. The after culture will be greatly facilitated by thorough preparation of the soil before planting, and there will be less necessity for running the shovel plough and the cultivator deep, by which the fine lateral roots are sometimes very materially injured. Hilling corn is now regarded as of no service, and is frequently detrimental. Nor should the one-horse plough be used except in cases of absolute necessity. All the after tillage, where the soil is light, should be superficial. It is recommended that in harvesting Corn, it should be cut up at the roots; but upon this point there is a great diversity of opinion. The writer, however, contends that it is best on economical grounds, as the stalk and blade chopped and mixed with corn meal constitute an admirable food for all kinds of cattle. He devotes no less than thirty-four pages to the general uses of the stalk crop; its feeding value, and the ratio of the stalk to the grain, but his estimate of two hundred millions of dollars as the annual value of the aggregate crop of corn fodder is absurdly high. In regard to the cost of producing a crop of corn he states what, if it can be verified, is a most important fact. He asserts that after the absolutely necessary expenses have been incurred—leaving out the cost of manure and after culture—every dollar expended increases the profit. His argument is this. Suppose that what are styled the necessary expenses are upon an average as follows:

Ploughing per acre,.....	\$2.00
Laying off, Planting and Seed.....	2.00
Harvesting.....	3.50
Rent of Land.....	5.00

\$12.50

Assuming the yield under such circumstances to be but fifteen bushels per acre, the account will stand thus:

Total expenses of one acre,.....	\$12.50
Deduct value of Fodder,.....	3.00

Actual cost of fifteen bushels of Corn,.....\$9.50

Or fifty-six cents per bushel.

The cost of cross ploughing, harrowing and cultivating twice will be:

Ploughing twice and Harrowing,.....	\$4.50
Laying off, Planting and Seed.....	2.00
After Culture,.....	4.00
Harvesting,.....	3.50
Rent,.....	5.00
	<u>\$19.00</u>

Under this extra cultivation he estimates the probable yield at thirty bushels per acre, and sums up as follows:

Total expense of crop,.....	\$19.00
Deduct value of Fodder,.....	7.20

Total cost of thirty bushels of Corn,.....\$11.80

Or thirty-nine cents a bushel.

Now add, he says, to the previous expenses of	\$19.00
Manure,.....	16.00
Subsoiling,.....	3.00
Harvesting,.....	1.50
	<u>\$39.50</u>

If we assume the yield then to be 70 bushels to the acre, and deduct the value of one-half the manure as benefiting to that extent succeeding crops, and also one-half the cost for subsoiling, as its effects are not limited to a single year, the net result will be:

Total expense,.....	\$39.50
Half cost of Manure and Subsoiling,.....	9.50

	<u>\$30.00</u>
Value of Fodder,.....	16.80

Cost of seventy bushels,.....\$13.20

Or nineteen cents a bushel.

"The result," he is frank enough to tell us, is theoretical; but he regards the figures assumed to be reasonable and consistent with experience. For ourselves, we express no opinion in regard to the matter, but we should like, nevertheless, to see the correctness of the theory proved by experiment on a large scale.

The remainder of the book is devoted to the uses of Corn, "the cost of beef, pork, &c., made from it—its miscellaneous uses, market price, &c., &c." All these are points of much interest to every farmer, and the work well deserves to find a place in his library. We might dissent from certain positions assumed by the writer; but, on the whole, the treatise we have thus passed under review is the best and most exhaustive of any that has yet been given to the public in regard to Indian Corn.

Those who would keep their buggies and carriages in good order, should place a wrench on every nut at least once a month. This will save nuts, save bolts, and prevent rattling, and wear and tear.

FRUIT CULTURE AS A SPECIALTY---ITS ADVANTAGES IN MARYLAND.

We learn that movements are now on foot in this State for extending largely the cultivation of fruit. Several farms, well situated, have recently been bought for this particular purpose. So far as the parties are known to us, they are men of energy, and have the capital sufficient to make this new enterprise a success. We do not speak of planting out extensive peach orchards merely; but of the finer and smaller fruits. These latter have been greatly neglected with us, the reason being that for many years the market demand was simply confined to fruits for preserving at home, and for immediate domestic use. The introduction and wide dissemination of canned fruits, have created a revolution in this respect, and there is not now, at any time, a supply that is at all adequate to meet the annually increasing wants of the trade. For the prosecution of this new branch of business, Maryland is happily and peculiarly situated. The climate and soil are alike well adapted for producing all the tenderer and choicer fruits in perfection, and whilst the preparation of these in hermetically sealed vessels, employs the summer and autumn months; in winter the oyster packing business comes in to fill up the work of the year. In no other State can these processes be combined so advantageously; for, in no other, is the supply of fruits in their season, and also of oysters after the fruit season is over, to be had. It would be difficult to estimate the value of the fruits, vegetables and oysters put up in Baltimore annually. Roughly, we may state that it amounts to millions of dollars. It has been quite a profitable business thus far, and its only drawback lies in a deficient supply of the various fruits that are required to be canned for export and for sale in the interior. The late war created a great demand for these luxuries. They were not only used liberally in the hospitals, but found their way also into the sutlers' booths and were thus distributed through the camps. It was thought by many that when the war was over the demand would measurably cease. The case turned out to be the very reverse. The soldiers released from service, many of whom had never made the acquaintance of canned fruits before, carried with them the new tastes they had acquired, to their remote country homes, and a large demand sprung up for these articles in places where they had not penetrated before. The increase of the business was further stimulated by the extraordinary inflation of the currency; and the consequent freedom with which money was spent. Last season, we believe, was not so favorable for dealers; but the business is, nevertheless, one that has now become

established on a permanent basis, and every year there will be new openings found for extending it, whereby the demand upon fruit growers will be increased. The ten Southern States, although grievously exhausted by the recent war, cannot remain for many years in their present prostrate condition, and when they are once more suffered to pursue their avocations in peace an immense demand for canned oysters and fruits will spring up there; from the relations which Maryland holds towards the South, and from her superior facilities for carrying on the business, nearly, if not quite the whole of this particular branch of trade will concentrate in Baltimore. We certainly do not wish to exaggerate when we say that in no State of the Union do we believe there is so fine a field for enterprise in the matter of fruit growing as in Maryland. The business as a specialty—if we except peach growing—is quite a new one with us, and those who first embark in it, on a scale commensurate with their means, may, with judgment and proper economy, reasonably expect to derive a large income from their labors. Apart from this, a well-established fruit farm would add very largely to the value of the property on which it may be situated, and would, at any time, command a ready sale. The business is a pleasant one, and in skilful hands, can undoubtedly be made quite lucrative. It is only within easy distance of a market, by land or water, that it can be carried on; so that competition, in view of the demand which has sprung up, and of the restrictions imposed upon the culture of fruits at remote points, can never reduce the price so low that fruits cannot be grown to a profit. Certainly, for many years yet to come, those who now enter upon this business of fruit growing may safely calculate on commanding remunerative prices for all they can send to market, and we feel confident that the demand will fully keep pace with the supply.

CURING LAMB SKINS.—A correspondent in *Country Gentleman* recommends the following method: As soon as the skin is taken from the animal, stretch it tightly on a board, flesh side out; then, before it begins to dry, I apply an equal mixture of fine salt and alum, thoroughly pulverized together, until the skin is slightly whitened by the mixture. I then take no further notice of the skins until I want them for use, (which is always a few weeks from the time of applying the mixture.) I then take them and thoroughly wash them in warm soap-suds, let them dry moderately, and just before they are fully dry, rub them soft with my hands. After rubbing they are soft and pliable as a kid glove, and will continue so.

Our Agricultural Calendar.

Farm Work for January.

In ordinary seasons January is the coldest month of the year. The ground is locked up by the frost, the stock are all housed, or ought to be, and field operations are entirely suspended. In the woods the woodman's axe may still be ringing in the cold, clear atmosphere; and under cover many things may be done towards expediting the work of the spring. All these little matters of preparation for the season of planting should now claim the consideration of those who desire to be beforehand with their work. The work for the year just entered upon may now be carefully thought over and systematically arranged. The farm stock must now receive that generous attention which is never more requisite than at this season, and finally, in stormy days and in long winter evenings when all the household are snugly and comfortably ensconced within doors, good books and good periodicals will be found a valuable resource, not simply as a means of pastime, but also as furnishing useful hints for future guidance. It is, of course, difficult at this season to lay down any rules which shall govern the work for the month, inasmuch as the nature of the weather will exercise a more or less controlling influence on what is to be done. The following suggestions, nevertheless, may not be found wholly out of place:

FIREWOOD.

Everybody who can do so should lay in an ample supply of firewood, for the use of the family, after being duly seasoned. In districts where coal is not within reach of reasonable transportation, wood for fuel will of course be the chief dependence of the family. How much well seasoned wood adds to the comfort of that family, those who have lived in the country and from neglect or short supply have had to resort to green wood, well know. In the bracing weather of January, fresh wood may be cut to advantage for future use, and such cord-wood of the previous season as is still out may be hauled home and stored away.

WET MEADOWS.

There are sometimes opportunities offered during this month to ditch wet meadows. If the ground is not frozen too deeply, the surface-soil with its network of roots may be cut through with an axe and removed, and at least a portion of the ditching so far advanced as to facilitate the completion of the work in early spring.

WINTER PLOUGHING.

Occasionally, even in January, there is a spell of open weather during which some winter plough-

ing may be done. But the occasions are very rare. If, however, such an opportunity should, by any chance occur, clay lands will be greatly benefitted by the operation, provided the soil is not too wet. In light lands it is not advisable to plough during the winter, as the object is simply to expose stiff soils to the ameliorating influences of frost.

WATER FURROWS.

Examine the water furrows in the grain fields, and if they are choked by the crumbling in of soil or from other causes, open them so as to enable them to carry off any superabundance of water.

Winter Feeding of Stock.

We have already referred to this important subject in the December number of the *Farmer*. We repeat here, however, that stock fed upon long straw and coarse fodder chiefly, rarely turn out in good condition in spring. Of course the quantity of choice hay and grain may be lessened where stock is housed for the winter and the services of the working cattle are not brought into requisition. But where long fodder is used, it is better to cut it into chaff and sprinkle it, at least lightly, with corn meal. Cows in milk require to be fed liberally, and especially to have messes of slops and cut roots in alternation with dry provender. All the stock should have easy access to pure water; should be well bedded, and should receive a supply of salt twice a week.

SHEEP.

To winter sheep well they should have the protection of moderately warm sheds in inclement weather. There is real economy in this, as apart from the smaller amount of food required, exposure to winter storms sensibly diminishes the weight and the fineness of the fleece. The quantity of food to be given fairly to each head, will range from two-and-a-half to three pounds of good hay or nutritious fodder. As a change; oat, rye, or barley straw may be given occasionally. A feed of roots now and then, will be found serviceable, and they should be kept well supplied with rock salt.

Breeding Sows and Store Pigs.

Turn into the pens of sows and pigs kept over, abundance of straw and any other rough fibrous material that can be reduced into manure. Keep their sleeping apartments dry and warm. Feed them moderately well and at regular hours, and let them have a small supply of charcoal occasionally to aid digestion.

POULTRY.

To have a good supply of eggs during the winter, poultry should be fed well. The poultry-house should be warm and yet well ventilated, and in addition to a liberal supply of grain, it is absolutely essential, if eggs at this season of the year are

wanted, that they should have a moderate supply of fresh meat chopped very fine. Some experienced raisers of poultry warm the food that is given to fowls, and the practice is a good one, as it stimulates them to lay. Care should be also taken that they have access to lime or old mortar, a heap of which may be kept under cover within the poultry yard, and to a bed of ashes or dry sand where they may dust themselves. See that the poultry-house is cleansed frequently; the manure removed and the floor sprinkled with dry sand mixed, if it can be had, with a small quantity of plaster. Pure water, accessible at all times, must be provided.

COMPOST HEAPS.

We again call attention to the collection of materials for forming compost heaps. There is no branch of labor on the farm that will pay better, and certainly none that can be so well performed as during the winter season, so long as snow does not lie upon the ground.

Garden Work for January.

There is really nothing that can be done in the open air with respect to gardening during this month. Where frames are used and the young plants are being forwarded by heat, care must be taken in moderate weather to give them air, but in such manner as not to check the slow fermentation which is going on in the manure below, and upon which the temperature of the hot-bed is dependent. If the heat shows signs of failing, an outer lining of fresh manure must be added. But if nothing can be done in the garden proper, there are several matters connected with gardening that may and should be attended to. Manure may be hauled out preparatory to spreading it over the beds in the early spring; but it is best to keep it in bulk and protect it from freezing, by a covering of corn stalks or leaves or both. In addition to this, an ample supply of pea sticks and bean poles may be cut, provided and stored away for future use.

If the hot-bed is yet to be made, and this work is frequently delayed until the close of the month, get together at once, and keep under shelter, a supply of long manure, and also stow away in a dry place a quantity of fine sifted mould, moderately rich, to spread over the surface of the manure to the depth of six inches after the frames are set and fermentation has commenced. In the hot-beds here referred to, sow towards the close of the month, cabbage seed of various kinds, tomato seed, and, if there should be room to spare, the seed of early scarlet radishes.

COMMUNICATED.

FOR THE MARYLAND FARMER.

SOWING OATS IN FEBRUARY.

By reference to books on the subject of agriculture and the monthlies, I have yet to learn that oats have been sown in February, neither have I heard the practice verbally suggested. Believing the object could be profitably accomplished, I prepared in the autumn of '65, a small strip of tolerably rich clay loam, having an easterly exposure, and on the last snow in February I sowed it down in oats, at the same time the land was top-dressed at the rate of 20 two-horse cart loads of barn-yard compost per acre. If there is a sufficiency of vegetable or animal matter on the land, and manure made on the farm is not sufficient for the crops, guano and other fertilizers may be resorted to and with a saving of 100 to 200 per cent. over and above the cost of carting manure from the city. For the process of covering the seed and manure, I relied on the honey-comb state of the land, aided by the melting snow and spring rains. As I anticipated, the seed germs, started vigorously and promised success. When the plants were sufficiently grown and the land dry, I passed a common drag harrow over it, followed by the roller. I also plowed, manured and managed three acres under similar circumstances, and sowed the oats about the tenth day of the following April. Now to the result. The oats sown in February produced a heavier crop, greater weight of grain and straw, and was ready for the scythe *upwards of two weeks earlier* than the April crop; thus affording not only an increased yield, but an opportunity of getting the crop in market early and obtaining the highest price. Clover and other grass seed may be sown in February at the same time of seeding the oats. In preparing land for oats or any other spring crop, it should be plowed in the autumn, for reasons that every observing farmer understands. I am strongly in favor of the propriety of surface manuring; to gain the utmost by the practice, the manure should be spread after plowing, and thoroughly incorporated by repeated cross-harrowing. With those who are opposed to the practice and prefer to manure and plow the manure under in autumn, I will compromise by proposing that the land be cross-plowed and subsoiled the following spring, after which "harrow the land," till it is harrowed enough, then harrow once more." The subsoil plow should run sufficiently deep to elevate the manure applied in the autumn. If the substratum is rich and the upper stratum impoverished, the subsoil plow may be run as deep as possible; again, on the contrary, if merely pulverizing the substratum is the object, it will be necessary to remove the elevating slide. By the free use of the subsoil plow and cultivator, drought (under ordinary circumstances) need not be feared. As ground plowed in the autumn is seldom or ever harrowed, the oats may be sown without that preparation and with fair success.

Yours, respectfully,

RALPHUS TREBOR.

Clairmont, Baltimore County, Md.

ABOUT VINEGAR.—It was an observation made by Scheele, but the fact has recently been published as a new discovery, that ordinary brown vinegar will keep bright and clear for any length of time if heated to the boiling point for a few minutes,

FOR THE MARYLAND FARMER.

FARMER'S GARDENS—No. 9.

PEAS.—The pea is a hardy annual plant, of great antiquity as a culinary vegetable, and is familiar in the domestic cookery of every country. The varieties are numerous, consequently they differ much in flavor and quality. For an early crop, they should be sown as soon as the ground is in working order. The soil for their reception should be light, dry, and well sheltered. Any well decayed manure has a beneficial effect; but some varieties require a much richer soil than others. For general culture the ground should be highly manured the previous year, which causes them to yield more abundantly. They are generally planted in double rows 4 feet apart; the seed one to two inches apart in the drill, and covered from two to six inches deep—the deeper covering generally prolonging the bearing, and preventing the premature decay of the vines. All sorts, except the dwarf, need brush, or something of the kind to climb upon and hold them from the ground. The height to which they grow depend upon the variety, the moisture and richness of the ground. The crop should be gathered as fast as it becomes fit for use. Should a few pods begin to ripen, young pods will cease to form, and those partly advanced will cease to enlarge. A few desirable sorts—*Early Dan O'Rourke*, one of the earliest varieties in cultivation; pods well filled; of good size and quality; of the finest flavor; grows about three feet high. *Tom Thumb*—Plants of remarkably low growth, seldom exceeding ten inches in height; stout and branching; pods about 2½ inches long containing five or six peas, of a creamy yellow color; fine flavor; very productive. May be cultivated in rows one foot apart. *McLean's Princess Royal*—Very prolific; long pod; early, of fine sugary flavor; one foot high; pods large well filled; very productive. *Champion of England*—A standard sort, considered by all the best grown for general crop; of delicious flavor; very productive, and growing from 3 to 4 feet high. *Large White Marrowfat*—An excellent and profitable sort; later than the preceding; pods large and full; very productive, growing from 3 to 5 feet high. *Black Eye Marrowfat*—An excellent variety, growing about three feet high; pods large and full; a prolific bearer; and one of the best of the Marrowfats.

PEPPER—(CAPSICUM.)—Capsicum, or pepper, is a tender annual, much esteemed for its seasoning qualities. It is extensively used for pickling. The plants are always grown from the seed. Sow in a hot-bed, in shallow drills six inches apart, and transplant to the open ground when summer weather has commenced. The plants should be set in rich, mellow, warm soil, in rows 18 inches apart, and the same distance in the rows; or for ordinary seasons in a small garden the following will give a family supply: when danger of frosts are past, sow the seeds in the open ground in rows 16 inches apart, and when they are well started thin to 8 or 10 inches in the row. A light dressing of guano worked into the soil around the plants will be found beneficial. Give the usual culture, and the crop will generally be fit for use in September. Varieties.—*Cayenne*—Pods of this variety quite small, cone-shaped, coral red when ripe, intensely acrid, and furnish the cayenne of commerce. *Cherry*—The pods, nearly erect, cherry shape, and of a deep rich, glossy, scarlet color, remarkable for its intense

sharpness. *Squash*—Fruit compressed, more or less ribbed; skin smooth and glossy; flesh thick, mild, and pleasant to the taste; best variety for pickling alone. *Sweet Mountain*.—Similar to preceding in form and color, but much larger; this with the last are fine for stuffing and pickling. *Sweet Spanish*.—Though one of the largest varieties, it is also one of the earliest; flesh sweet, mild and pleasant; use similar to last two.

RADISH.—The radish is a hardy annual plant, much esteemed for its grateful relish, and is cultivated for its root. Its excellence consists in being crisp, tender, mild and succulent; the roots should be eaten before they are overgrown, as then they are tough and thready. The seed pods, picked green, make an excellent pickle. For early crops, sow in spring as soon as the ground can be worked in light rich soil—its excellence consists in growing quick and tender—for later crops a deep moist soil is preferable: sow once in two weeks for a succession—Sow the seed thinly in drills, 10 inches apart, cover the seed about a quarter of an inch deep with fine soil. If sown with onions the maggot will affect it less than when alone. Varieties—*Early Short-top* *Long Scarlet*.—Long, growing partly out of ground, deep pink color; flesh white transparent, crisp, and tender; should be used young. *Long Salmon*.—A fine variety, in size and form similar to the Long Scarlet, but of a paler red; coming in a few days later. *Black Spanish*.—One of the latest as well as hardest, and is considered an excellent winter sort—large size, black, and firm texture. To keep well should be packed in sand. *Long White Chinese*.—Skin white, and of a firm texture; flesh fine grained, crisp, and very good flavored. Season same as the preceding.

GARDINIERE.

FOR THE MARYLAND FARMER.

DOES SHEEP RAISING PAY?

In the month of September, 1865, I started to Vermont, in company with a friend, to purchase sheep for our farms. We attended the New York State Fair at Utica, and there learned that sheep could be bought quite reasonably in the counties of Livingston and Genesee in that State; so we determined to give up our trip to Vermont, and purchase in New York. In a few days after our arrival in the counties named, we succeeded in buying up a drove of 1,568 sheep. They were grades from coarse woolled ewes, small, ill-formed, thin, light-fleeced Saxon and a sprinkle of Silesian, and some of them unimproved coarse wools—and with the whole flock, a large per cent. of wethers. I cannot now state positively what the flock averaged there, but on arriving home, the total cost, including expense of driving, eighteen rams, and the losses on the road, (about sixty head,) averaged about \$5.12½ per head. Out of this flock we kept 200 sheep, an average of the lot of this number, 168 were ewes of all ages, from lambs up to twelve years old, and thirty-two wethers. I believe that the flock cost, delivered here, not including the rams, four dollars per head.

In passing through the northwest of Pennsylvania, nearly my whole drove were poisoned by eating ivy, or as some call it, low laurel. I lost thirty-six in one field, and many more on the road. All were greatly reduced in flesh by the poison and journey, and I never wish to behold a more unpromising looking flock than ours was when we turned them

on the farm on the second day of December, 1865. We had no fencing, no shelter, and in fact nothing much but grass, to keep sheep on. We allowed the flock to roam at large, with two of my best rams with them. I salted them about once a week, and sometimes not oftener than once in two weeks. They ran the whole winter and spring with but little attention, for I feared they would be a loss to me anyhow, and gave them no more attention than I could help. Lambs began to drop in March, and by the middle of May all had dropped lambs that had taken the ram. One hundred and one lambs were dropped in all. Out of that number we only lost one, which became so stiff from castration that it could not follow the flock. On the 17th day of February, 1866, the snow was several inches deep, with a hard crust on top. Sheep could not get to the grass, so I shelled one-half bushel corn, and for want of feed-troughs, threw it on the ground. The sheep eat a little, ran over and soiled the rest. Then came the hogs and drove off the sheep, and eat up the corn. I then carried them two hay stacks of good late cut hay; they eat a little and soon left it. I am sure, not one thousand or fifteen hundred pounds of hay, at the outside, was fed to our whole flock of two hundred sheep, with the half-bushel of corn. Now you have the whole amount of care and kindness (?) I gave the flock—now let us see how they returned good for evil: We brought to the shearing-table 196 sheep, showing a loss of four sheep. We got 960 pounds of wool from the flock, which we sold for 42 cents per pound. I do believe that if our sheep could have been sheltered and properly cared for, they would have yielded from six to six and a half pounds per head, of wool in the dirt. The sheep were washed by every rain and dew, and I know there was less loss from shrinkage in the wool than the best fleece-washed wool. The manufacturers, to whom we sold, (Messrs. Kelley, Tacket & Ford, of Fredericksburg, Va.,) say it was the nicest lot they ever bought. Yet we only got the price for wool in the dirt.

Now let us resort to figures to see if sheep pay; for I have sold out that flock, lambs and all, at the price below mentioned:

200 Merino sheep at an average cost of \$4	\$800.00
960 pounds of Merino wool, 42 cts. per lb.	\$403.20
Sold 164 Merino ewes at \$5 per head	\$820.00
Sold 100 Merino lambs at \$3 per head	300.00
Sold 32 Merino wethers at \$4.25 per head	135.00

Total	\$1,659.20
Off cost of sheep	800.00

Profit on 200 sheep..... \$859.20

Now, if you chose, you can deduct the 1,500 pounds of hay at 50 cents per hundred, (the cost of hay last winter,) and of half-bushel corn at \$1 per bushel, shearing, &c., it will not reduce it enough to materially alter the above.

We consider that the sheep's manure is well worth their grazing, and more too.

Cuipeper, Va.

Jos. E. FICKLIN.

PEAT AS A FERTILIZER.—Mr. Hyde, author of a recent treatise on peat, says:—"Many take it directly from the 'muck bed' to the barn-yard or compost heap, or spread it on the land; all these methods are wrong. It should first be spread, not more than twenty inches thick, and allowed to lie a year. The rains will wash out the acid, and the frost disintegrate the mass, in which condition it may be spread on the surface, ploughed in, or mixed with other materials."

FOR THE MARYLAND FARMER.

A GOOD CELLAR.

A good cellar will be appreciated by all economical housekeepers; but how many, nominally keeping house are destitute of a good cellar. A cellar is desirable to preserve many things which must be kept at a uniform rather low temperature, and which are not injured, if not benefited by a rather moist air. A good cellar is one that is cool, moist, dry, rat proof, well ventilated, and light or dark at pleasure. To secure these qualities it should be below the surface of the ground principally, with cemented walls and bottom; if the ground be wet there should be drains to cut off the water in the foundations, and the center of the cellar bottom should be the highest, sloping towards the outer sides. Cellars are often dry or damp as the seasons change; when damp they should be ventilated in mild days. A good cellar is useful to store fruit, such as apples, pears, &c. Roots, as potatoes, turnips, carrots, parsnips, beets, salsify, the most sensitive of which if packed in sand will not shrivel, or grow at all till spring. Cabbages, cauliflower and brocoli, which will gradually perfect themselves in the early part of winter; celery which grows and bleaches as it never does out of doors; endives, which taken in and planted in beds, grows without care, beautifully blanched and forms a delicious winter salad; leeks, chives, and many other plants are well stored in a cellar. Other articles such as cider, wines, bottled fruits, &c., will find a place. Many tender plants which will not bear our winters, such as tender geraniums, roses, oleanders, verbenas, jessamines, pelargoniums, &c. All these and many other uses may be made of a good cellar; one never wet, never dry, hot or cold, never airy or close, and light or dark at pleasure. Such a cellar is a luxury worth enjoying, and one of the most economical and indispensable parts of a well ordered house.

GARDINIERE.

WOOD ASHES FOR MANURE.

We recommend the farmer carefully to save for use in the spring all the ashes he can collect from the home consumption of fuel during the winter; and where he has opportunity, to procure from other sources a supply, leached or unleached, of this valuable fertilizer. If people knew from experience the worth of this simple manure, there would be no ashes wasted, neither would there be any to sell, except by those who have no soils to improve, or no crops to raise.

To retain all their virtue, it is highly important that ashes should be kept dry; for water will dissolve out a large proportion of the most valuable salts, yet even leached ashes, need not be thrown away as of no account; for, though far inferior in fertilizing qualities to unleached ashes, they are by no means useless. One very important result of the employment of this manure in the growth of cereals is the increased strength and luxuriance of straw thereby promoted—a result due to the presence of silicates on which so much of stiffness of the straw depends. Other ingredients, essential to both straw and grain are furnished by this important fertilizer. Ashes are valuable also for promoting the growth of grass; and Professor Liebig recommends sowing them broad-cast on meadows, to increase the quantity of hay.—*Canada Farmer*.

ALL ABOUT GRASS.

In the course of an address delivered by Solon Robinson, before the Columbia Co., N. Y. Agricultural Society, in September last, he culminated on the grass question, from which we extract the following:—

Grass is King; it rules and governs this world. It is the very foundation of all commerce. It is the most important crop ever grown upon the face of the earth. Without it the earth would be a barren waste, and cotton, gold and commerce all dead.—Grass is the all in all to men.

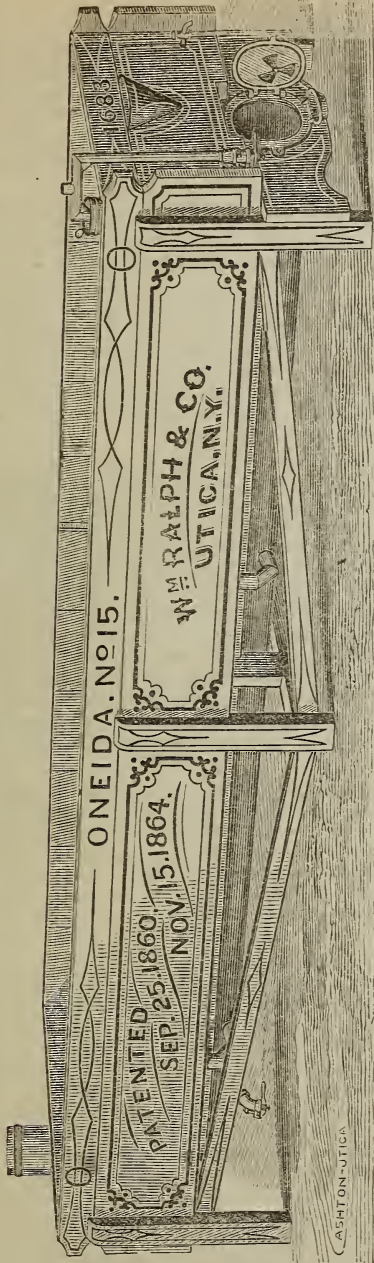
No wonder, then, that he has always been considered a wise man who said—"He that hath made two blades of grass to grow where only one grew before, is greater than he that buildeth a city."—That it builds a part of commerce—a storehouse for cotton—a place of deposit for gold.

What is grass? Have you ever thought? I am sure some of the younger portion of my audience have not. It is the shoes upon your feet—the hats upon your heads—the coats upon your backs. To-day, like the cattle in the field, you dined upon grass, you will sup upon the same, and sleep upon grass to-night. Did you eat beef, or mutton, or bread for your dinner? What were they last week, last month, last year? Nothing but grass. Will you eat butter, and cheese, and milk, for your supper? Some of these were grass this morning or yesterday. So rapid has been the chemical work of changing one substance into another, in nature's laboratory, that you have eaten grass scarcely a day old. It has not had the same time for preparation that you gave it when cured for hay. If you sleep to night, as every sensible farmer will, upon a bed of rye straw, you sleep upon pure grass, for that and wheat, oats, barley and Indian corn, in botanical classification, are all grass. Every woollen garment you wear is but the concentration of grass in the sheep's stomach into wool. Those stout leather boots and shoes upon your feet were growing last year upon the hill sides, green as grass, and if you would not wish to be supposed equally green, you must consider all these things. Consider that, as growers of grass, you are the most important class of people on earth, and arouse yourselves to a due sense of that position and feel a degree of pride in accordance. For it is a proud position for any mortal to occupy; to be one of those who control the whole commerce and manufacturers of the world.—Without grass the world could not exist.

NEW AND OLD HAY.—It has been ascertained that well cured hay weighed in the field July 20, and then stored in the barn until February 20, had lost 27½ per cent. of its weight. It is, therefore, better to sell hay in the field at \$15 a ton than from the barn at \$20 in midwinter.

DREAMS.

A dream
Is Nature's kindest gift; it opens wide
Those fairy palaces where glance and gleam
Sweet fancies, never seen at waking tide.
In his blest dreams the boor
Drives cold and thirst and hunger from his door,
Wears purple garments, dwells amidst perfumes,
Spreads softest carpets on his gilded rooms,
And laughs at tyrant kings, and walks erect
In the proud liberty of self-respect.
In dreams the youth whom the coy maid has chased
Sleeps with her loving arms around his waist;
And, I poor dreamer, in my vision see,
That my weak breath has made my country free.



DESCRIPTION OF VAT.

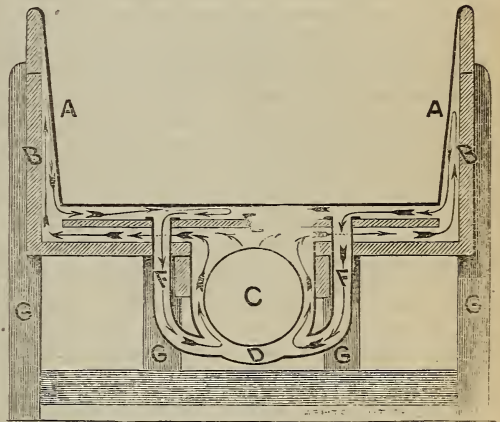
This cut represents a 600 gallon factory size, but is adapted to great or small requirements. It is composed of an inner, or milk vat, made of heavy tin plate, which is surrounded by an outer, or pine vat, lined throughout with the best quality of galvanized sheet iron, so that no water

can come in contact with the wood. Between the outer and inner vat, on the bottom, sides and ends, is a water space, the inner vat being supported on slats.

In the middle of the bottom of the outer vat, and one-third the width of it, is an opening extending the whole length of the vat. Into this opening is affixed a half cylinder, made of galvanized sheet iron, with its opening upwards. Into this half cylinder, a heavy copper cylinder is inserted, which also extends the whole length of the vat, and around which is left a space of water, communicating freely the entire length with the water space between the vats. The fire is made in one end of this cylinder, and the smoke-pipe is attached to the other.

Immediately over the heater, in the space between the two Vats is placed the "Equalizer," which compels an ascent of the heated water around the sides and ends of the inner Vat, from whence, after imparting a portion of its heat, it is conducted through pipes to the bottom of the heater, where, having heat again imparted to it, performs the same circuit, keeping up steady, reliable currents.

Attached to the vat, when required, is a tank or reservoir, for containing a supply of hot water, separated from that in the space between the vats, to be used for cleansing the apparatus after the cheese is made; or it may be used as a receptacle for ice, through which to pass water around the milk, when the water is not sufficiently cool to preserve the milk sweet.



The above is a cross section of the Vat, showing its construction and the direction of the currents of water while imparting heat to the contents of the inner Vat. AA is the inner or tin Vat, B is the outer Vat, C the Heating Cylinder in which fire is made. D the Case or Jacket to contain water surrounding the heating cylinder, and which also fills the space between the outer and inner vats. E the Equalizer, a board or other non-conducting substance interposed between the Heater and bottom of the inner Vat, above and below which are open spaces for the circulation of water. FF are pipes for returning the water to the bottom of the heater after having imparted its heat to the milk or curd. GGGG are the legs and supports of the outer Vat. The arrows indicate the course of the water, from which it will be observed that as the water is put in motion by the heat, it rises upward and is directed by the Equalizer to the sides and ends of the Vat, where imparting a portion of its heat it descends to the top of the Equalizer, passing under the bottom of the inner Vat, from whence after having disposed of its remaining heat it is conducted

through pipes to the heater, from which in like manner it again becomes the bearer of another portion of heat to the inner Vat.

There are 15 sizes of these machines made, ranging from 1 to 15, capacity from 85 to 600 gallons—prices from \$102 to \$320. Circulars with full particulars can be obtained of the manufacturers, Wm. Ralph & Co., Utica, New York.

THE MANUFACTURE OF CHEESE.

In the manufacture of cheese, the importance of a good apparatus has, until recently, been too little valued, or but little understood, and hence anything that could be used to communicate heat to the milk or curds, was deemed sufficient for the business. Formerly he who could produce two and a half pounds of cheese from milk that would supply one pound of butter, was satisfied that he had accomplished all that could be attained. But in this as well as other branches of agricultural industry, experience and science have demonstrated that much improvement may be made—and in those sections of our country where the manufacture of cheese is the leading agricultural pursuit, the principles involved in obtaining the largest amount of cheese, of finest quality, from a given amount of milk, are being by degrees, better understood; and now he that does not obtain three pounds of cheese to one of butter is regarded but an indifferent cheese maker. This result is mainly attributable to the use of improved apparatus, which is being introduced into every section, and fast supplanting old devices; but that it is not yet in the hands of all is obvious, for we find the quantity of milk consumed to make a given amount of cheese varying somewhat widely in the same locality, where the conditions which usually vary the quantity and quality of milk, are equal. Some consuming but about nine pounds, or a little more, to produce a pound of cheese, while with others ten to eleven pounds are required to make the same amount, and this where there are no "secrets of the trade"—for dairymen are proverbially liberal in the dissemination of all advantageous information to their fellows—and hence deficits are justly chargeable to the use of inferior or badly adapted apparatus, the continued use of which can only be ascribed to ignorance of the existence of a better, or to what we apprehend is oftener the case, to a mistaken idea of economy, the folly of which may be more apparent by making a little estimate. It is calculated that the average production of milk, per cow, during the cheese making season—which at the North, is from April to November, both months inclusive—is about 450 gallons, the average weight per gallon being about 10 lbs. would make an aggregate of 4500 lbs. Supposing it to take ten pounds of milk to make one pound of cheese, the amount produced would be 450 lbs. But suppose by the use of improved apparatus, a pound of cheese to be made from nine and a quarter pounds of milk, (in this estimate we avoid extremes either way) the yield would be 486½ lbs., giving an increase of 36½ lbs. of cheese, which at 16 cents per lb. would be a gain of \$5.84 per cow; in a herd of 30 cows \$175.20—an amount sufficient to purchase two Vats, each large enough for the whole dairy—or to pay the entire wages of a competent woman for making and curing the cheese, without mentioning the great advantage derived from superiority of product.

The supposition that but a limited section of the United States is adapted to cheese producing, is being very much modified, for in all or nearly all the more Northernly of the Southern States and those of the West, heretofore exclusively devoted to grain or stock raising, the business is successfully and profitably prosecuted.

USEFUL RECIPES.

SWELLED LEGS IN HORSES.—This disease takes on several forms. Sometimes it is simply a slight enlargement of the larger muscles of the legs, consequent upon standing on a hard floor, with lack of exercise. This often occurs when a horse is first taken in from pasture and confined in the stable. The obvious remedy is a little hard rubbing of the affected parts, feeding with grass or other light food, and plenty of daily exercise.

A worse form of this is when a horse, somewhat feeble and diseased in other parts, suddenly develops swollen limbs. This is apparently the shifting of disease from other organs. It is accompanied with a lack of healthy circulation, with fever, soreness, and lameness. Sometimes abscesses are formed, and the heels are affected with "scratches." The treatment required is a mild physic and bleeding, if the horse is not much reduced. Warm bathings should be used, and bandages. If this trouble arises from weakness and low living, the horse should have better food, and all means should be tried to improve the tone and vigor of his system.

HEAVES IN HORSES.—In reply to an enquiry in the *Rural*, get some black hickory bark—the outside shell bark—burn it to ashes and mix it with the horse's feed, as much as he can be made to eat, and allow him to eat no dusty hay, especially clover hay. This will greatly relieve him, but it will not effect an entire cure, as I do not think anything will cure the heaves completely.—*Cor. Rural American.*

CAUSES OF INFLUENZA IN HORSES.—It would be impossible to assign any direct cause for this affection, it seems to prevail among horses in well ventilated stables, as well as among those compelled to breathe an impure atmosphere; it probably often has a spontaneous origin, and then prevails as an enzootic affection, spreading from one stable to another, by virtue of the laws which govern enzootic maladies.

KIDNEY DISEASE IN HOGS.—A. M. Ross, of Douglas, says—that one of his hogs became lame, lost its appetite, and was very weak in his hind legs. He at first attributed it to the stoppage of the issue of the feet, but could find no trace of any disease of the sort. He therefore treated the animal for the kidney disease, by feeding it on green couch-grass roots, or as some call it, swich-grass roots.—This completely cured the animal in about three weeks.

HOW TO RELIEVE CHOKED CATTLE.—I have fattened many cattle on potatoes, and always feed them whole, and occasionally one gets choked. I then put the animal in a yard, where there are bars, which I let down, so that she can jump over, but as high as she will jump. I then place her about two rods from the bars, with her head toward them, and with a good whip, well applied, I run her over the bars on the jump, and when she touches the ground, on the opposite side, the potato will fly out of her mouth. I have informed my neighbors of this remedy, many of whom have tried it, and in no case have I known a failure.—*Aaron Lee, in Rural American.*

HOG CHOLERA.—I send you a safe and sure cure for the hog cholera. When a hog has the disease, throw it and give two large tablespoonfuls of the common pine tar, and it will cure it, if not dying.—*Cor. Rural American.*

TO CURE SORE EYES IN CATTLE.—Take one tablespoonful of lard, the same amount of salt sweet cream, the same of soot out of a stove-pipe, warm it thoroughly and mix it, then put it into the ear on the side which is affected. It is a sure cure.—*Cor. Rural American.*

LARGE AND SMALL FARMS DISCUSSED.

The following extract from Hon. Willoughby Newton's address, and the comments thereon—giving both sides of the question—we take from the *Utica (N. Y.) Weekly Herald*, by N. A. Willard, Esq., the agricultural editor:

Are Large or Small Farms Favorable to the Advancement of Agriculture?

Hon. Willoughby Newton, in his recent address before the Virginia State Agricultural Convention, has a lengthy plea in favor of large farms, and among other things he says:

"Advisors tell us that our lands must be divided into small farms; the halls of our ancient hospitality must be abandoned; the elegance and refinement of manners that have heretofore distinguished the families of the country must retire to the cities and town, and the race of country gentlemen become extinct. If such sentiments had been uttered by enemies abroad we might afford to pass them by unnoticed, but when they are sincerely entertained, and eloquently expressed by friends at home, whose talents and position entitle their opinions to respect, it becomes us carefully to consider them—to expose their ruinous tendency, and to enter an earnest protest against their adoption.

"The question of small farms must be regarded as already settled. They are unsuited to this age, and especially to this country. The inventive faculties of man have been taxed to the utmost to provide labor-saving machinery in every department of art, and in none more so than in the art of husbandry. The horse-power, the thrasher, the drill, the reaper, and large and combined plows for three or more horses, are indispensable to large operation, but would be entirely out of place on small farms. Not satisfied with these great improvements upon old instrumentalities, modern science has yoked steam to the thrasher and breaking plow, and various implements are now in use by which luxury may be combined with labor. I have lately seen a young gentleman driving his sulky plow, and turning the glebe quite as much at his ease as if he had been riding to court, with his green bag filled with the bonds of unfortunate debtors. With these improved plows, it is said that one man can cultivate with ease a field of a hundred acres.—Shall we be guilty of the folly of throwing away, not only the advantages of the division of labor and of cultivated intellect in directing affairs, but all the improvements of modern science and art, and of returning to that state of rude simplicity in which "Adam delved and Eve spun," which preceded the age of gentlemen?

"If there was nothing in the advanced state of art and civilization opposed to the system of small farms there is that in the condition of the country which renders the idea preposterous and absurd. We have in Virginia a population of about thirty to the square mile, and of these nearly one-half are freedmen; and in all the States and Territories of the Union about eight to the square mile.

"Why is the agriculture of Great Britain confessedly superior to that of all the world? Is it mainly attributable to large farms, on which manure, capital, labor and machinery are applied without stint. This is the concurrent opinion of the great lights of

British husbandry—Coke, Sinclair, Arthur Young, and Brown, of Markle, the author of the article "Agriculture" in the *Edinburgh Encyclopedia*, a treatise of extraordinary merit, and scarcely equaled by any similar publication.

"Could there be folly more supreme than to divide into little patches Shirley, Westover, the Bransdons, and thousands of other farms that might be mentioned, where the plow now runs without obstruction, in order that a crowded population of half-starved Fleshmish boors might extort from the soil a little more produce by delving with the spade? For my part, I desire space—ample space, for the development of the individual man."

There are objections to a general system of large farms in the United States, which necessarily grow out of the institutions of the country. In England, large landed estates are entailed, and vast wealth is centered in a few individuals. Here the law makes no such distinction. The large farms of one generation are pretty sure to be divided up or squandered by those that follow. If it is assumed that men have immense wealth which they desire to employ in agriculture, doubtless it can be used to good advantage on large tracts of land; for men who have comparatively small means, large farms generally prove a disadvantage. The great fault of farming with us is, want of capital. If one has not the means to cultivate a small farm well, how can it be expected that he will be able to manage well a greater number of acres? If we should make a comparison, it will be generally found that the smaller farms are best cultivated. A farmer of moderate means will find ample scope for all his powers on a farm of 150 to 200 acres. If that has been brought to a high state of fertility and all its resources developed, then other acres may be added, but the fault generally is that we try to farm too much land.

The farming of England is excellent, but it has not resulted from a system of large farms. It is true large estates are entailed, but these are not generally farmed by one person. They are divided up into parcels from fifty to two hundred acres and sometimes five hundred or more, and rented. The tenant must have ample capital, and generally he has an amount equivalent to what would be the value of a farm in America of the same number of acres. This capital is used in his business upon the farm, and, by attending closely to his business and farming well, he makes a profit for himself, and pays his rent. In making permanent improvements, such as drainage, &c., the landlord often bears a proportion of the expense, and what improvements one generation does not effect are, perhaps, completed by the next or by the next, and so by degrees the land is put in condition to turn off crops to the best advantage. England is an old country where permanent improvements of this

kind have been going on for ages. You cannot introduce the system of English tenantry in America. A farmer who has means is not content to rent lands, but must own the freehold.

The system of large farms has operated very disastrously in Virginia and other Southern States. Their farming, for the most part has been of the most wretched character. Immense tracts of land in Virginia, once fertile, have been exhausted and are now barren. Before the war, some of our northern farmers, (small farmers,) tried the experiment of purchasing some of these lands with a view of renovating them. Some were successful, and others found their cost more than had been anticipated. If the argument of Mr. Newton is good in his reference to the success of English agriculture, why have we not similar results at the South? Climate, a soil more easily tilled and originally as fertile as that in England obtained. "The space—the ample space for the development of the individual man," according to Mr. N.'s desires, was not wanting, but instead of making that improvement which he fancifully sets forth as attainable, the condition of the country was lamentably inferior to that of the eastern and middle States, where small farmers are the rule. Of course our comparison has reference to the period before the war.

We do not argue that large farms cannot be carried on profitably or not be well managed, but rather that the chances are in this country against high culture and good management. Large landholders in New York find it advantageous to divide up their lands into farms, say of 150 to 200 acres often smaller. They find the lands better farmed and the profits altogether more than where the farms are larger. Doubtless, at the South where a different range of crops are grown, farms somewhat larger than these could be successfully managed, but it is a question whether better crops and more profit could not be realized by cutting up the old farms of two, three and more thousand acres, and instituting a more thorough system of culture. In the present financial condition of landholders, it would seem not to admit of doubt. But to say nothing of the better culture of the lands incident to moderate sized farms. A general system of large farms, is not conducive to an intelligent, happy and prosperous condition of society. The country becomes divided up into two classes; the one comprising a small number owning all the land and wealth, the other poor and ignorant. Constant importation of the latter class must be made or else they must be kept ignorant, for as soon as one of them acquires means of intelligence, he will push off into new regions and set up for himself. The peasantry or farm labors in England, we found in a deplorable condition in regard to intelligence, educa-

tion and worldly prosperity. We have no class in America, occupying a position, corresponding with their servile condition, except it be at the South, and we hope never to see this state of things inaugurated at the North at least.

In England the laborer is a distinct class, but with us the laborer for the most part goes into the family of the farmer, and in a few years acquires a sort of education which fits him to make a good citizen. In this respect he has great advantages above his class in the old world. All these considerations naturally come into the question of large and small farms, so that it would seem that an equitable division of the land is more conducive to national prosperity at least, under a form of Government and in a country like that of the United States.

The following, on the same subject, we copy from the *Constitutionalist*, Augusta, Georgia:

Large and Small Farms.

Many large estates will have to be divided into small farms. We have asserted this before, and it is, as most men admit, only a question of time for fulfillment. While we do not hesitate to make declaration of an inevitable fact, it is but fair to qualify what might otherwise seem too general an opinion. The divisions of large estates will not, of necessity, compel planters to turn market gardeners. On the contrary, we believe that planting on a large scale will, and ought to be pursued by those who can afford it. Numbers, possessed of the requisite means and ability, will thus cultivate broad acres, but not in the same profusion as of yore. Superior energy and talent must accumulate landed property, just as the same qualifications gather merchandise or gold. But the number of these great proprietors cannot be so formidable as under the slave system. Labor-saving machines, such as steam or buggy plows, reapers, threshers, etc., render immense estates still possible. It is well that they should not be wholly annihilated, for there are no better schools for enlarged ideas of statecraft or private enterprise. Administrative ability of a high order is requisite. The common slang about "keep a hotel," as evidencing peculiar traits of governing, applies with ten-fold force to the management of a fine estate. Much of their eminence, as the breeders of statesmen or politicians, has sprung from these habits of the Southern people, nursed from the cradle to use authority and engineer vast systems of labor. It is objected to the division of large plantations that this eminence may be surrendered. We think not. There will be a sufficiency of plantations to create a superabundance of statesmen and, it may be matter for congratulation that the supply is necessarily limited. Thus, too, there may be just as much force of character necessary to regulate matters on a modest farm. We feel assured that poverty will compel the great body of Southern youth to manifest the noble qualities of courage, fortitude, patience and industry which, running in a different groove, made them splendid gentlemen and incomparable heroes. The South has much to learn, and she knows it. Experience may be a fool's teacher, but it frequently transforms folly into wisdom.

THE SOUTHERN COTTON WORM.

It has been said, not without point and justice, that heavy Government taxes and political agitation, are two most formidable gnawing worms that the cotton culture of the South is exposed to at the present time. It has, indeed, always seemed to us an anomalous state of things that, in the very moment of abolishing an old system of labor, fixed in the South for a century or more, and the introduction of a new one subject, at the outset, to many uncertainties, everything should not be done to facilitate rather than to retard the improved development. Unfortunately, in our opinion, a contrary course has been pursued, and the cotton trade is likely to experience disagreeable results.

But, without following this branch of the subject farther, we propose to direct our chief attention to the Cotton Worm whose ravages in Alabama, Louisiana and Texas have been so disagreeably felt during the passing season. People at the North, even those who devote much attention to cotton as a matter of business or theory, are but little acquainted with the real nature of the destroyer, that so often cuts short our stock of pleasant apparel and lightens our pockets by increasing the prices of the residue it leaves on the plantations. A few facts, culled from the most authentic sources of observation, may give them a clearer perception of what the Southern proprietor has to contend with, even when everything else is favorable to him.

The increase of the cotton parasite, commonly known as the "army worm," the *noctua xyliana* of the learned, is prodigious. Each female lays 500 eggs, and if we allow but one of these reptiles—we, assuredly, would allow none if we could help it—to an acre, in six days we should have 500 full fledged duplicates upon the same space. Of this number, at least one half or 250 would prove to be females, which again reproducing according to well settled laws, as noticed by experience, would, in the space of 22 days more, yield 125,000 young worms upon the acre, or 25 to each plant computing 5,000 cotton plants for the same measurement of ground. Now, again, calculating the half as females, in another lapse of 22 days or 50 days in all, say from the 1st of June to the 20th of July, we should get 6,250 army worms on every plant.

In 1864, the people of Louisiana, tempted by the high price of cotton, which was then selling at \$1 50 cts. per lb., went heartily to work upon the great staple, after having almost totally abandoned it during the earlier years of the war. The sugar cane had been put in the back ground, and even Indian corn, an article of prime necessity, comparatively neglected. Everybody thought that a single year of good hard labor, would pay off all debts and make

money plenty once more in the markets of New Orleans. Everything was done at the start that enterprise and enthusiasm could suggest; but the army worm appeared and, in a moment almost, the dream had vanished. Journalists and others who went out to view the cotton fields after the devastation had begun, state that at the distance of a mile the crackling sound of those millions of voracious jaws, making up in number what they lacked in size, could be heard at work, reminding the spectator of the noise of a slow fire sweeping over the plain. Devoid of resources, the poor planter could only look on and see, or rather hear, his fine calculations swept away, as a hapless man does at his burning house.

For a long time it was thought that the army worm confined its ravages to Lower Louisiana, but testimony recently collated proves this impression to be erroneous. In 1788, it destroyed 280 tons of cotton in the Bahamas, and forced the abandonment of the cotton culture in several of the Antilles. For a long time it checked the business in Egypt. In 1793, it ravaged Georgia, and in 1800 wrought destruction in South Carolina. In 1804, it covered Louisiana and the aid of the clergy was invoked to stay its progress by petitions to the Throne of Grace. Nothing, however, arrested it but a tremendous snow storm. In 1825, the whole South was its victim to such an extent that seed could hardly be procured for the ensuing year. The last general invasion was in 1845.

The cotton worm frequently appears in Guiana and other portions of South America. Its visitations in the United States have been 24 since 1793, with different degrees of intensity. Sometimes—very, very rarely however, it does some good, as for instance, last year when it came very late and merely served to clear off the weeds, an operation that alone made the cotton crop valuable.

From long and perseveringly careful observation, it has been concluded that the season most favorable for the generation of the army worm, is when the weather is warm but rainy with a cloudy sky until the end of June. Such was the case this year, and all the usual signs of trouble were noticed, the flitting of birds that feed on the worm, &c., &c.

This parasite invariably yields to a hot sun and prolonged dryness of the atmosphere. In Louisiana and the other Southern States, as well as in the Bahamas, a torrid temperature kills it, particularly where the soil is sandy.

On the 1st of August, 1826, the army of invasion had taken position on a line reaching from Louisiana to North Carolina, but on the 23d it evacuated the country, unable to resist a succession of burning hot days.

Various means have been resorted to, with feeble success, however, after the appearance of the worm,

to drive it away. In this case, like all others, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. A Louisiana French paper suggests a method commonly adopted in France to protect the cabbage plant from insects. The larval are destroyed by sowing among the rows a certain quantity of hempseed, and, probably, placing layers of hemp between them would answer the same purpose.

The subject is worthy of the investigation of the ablest Governmental agencies that can be brought to bear upon it, if the planters themselves have not enterprise enough to take the proper measures.—*New York Mercantile Journal.*

CLOVER.

Clover differs entirely from the cereal plants in this respect, that it sends its main roots perpendicularly downwards, when no obstacles stand in the way, to a depth which the fine fibrous roots of wheat and barley fail to reach; the principal roots of clover branch off into creeping shoots, which again send forth fresh roots downwards. Thus clover, like the pea plant, derives its principal food from layers below the arable surface soil; and the difference between the two consists mainly in this—that the clover, from its larger and more extensive root-surface, can still find a sufficiency of food in fields where peas will no longer thrive; the natural consequence is, that the subsoil is left proportionably much poorer by clover than by the pea. Clover seed, on account of its small size, can furnish from its own mass, but few formative elements for the young plant, and requires a rich arable surface for its development; but the plant takes comparatively but little food from the surface soil. When the roots have pierced through this, the upper parts are soon covered with a corky coating, and only the fine root-fibers ramifying through the subsoil convey food to the plant *Liebig.*

UNDERDRAINING LAND—ITS EFFECT.—Experiments in underdraining land were made in Scotland last year for the purpose of determining the effect on the temperature of the soil, compared with that in the same vicinity which was not drained. The result was that the draining raised the temperature 1.5 degrees, equal to a removal of the land from one hundred to one hundred and fifty miles south. This is an important consideration connected with compact, heavy soils, whose retentiveness of water renders them cold and comparatively inert with respect to vegetation. Draining land involves considerable expense, but its increased productiveness soon repays this, besides assuring increased profits for the future.

A pair of rats, well situated and left entirely undisturbed, will, in 3 years, have increased 656,808.

FACTS FOR TAX-PAYERS.

For the benefit of our readers who have not the time or the inclination to wade through the late Department reports of the General Government we present below a few facts relating to the financial condition of the nation:

At the end of the fiscal year, 1865 (June 30th), we owned \$2,681,000,000; a year later, June 30th, 1866, this sum was reduced to \$2,650,000,000; and on October 1st, following, was further reduced to \$2,551,000,000. So we have paid off \$99,000,000 of our debts in four months, and now owe, aside from the \$142,000,000 in the Treasury, \$2,551,000,000.

There flowed into the Government's pockets, from all sources of revenue, in the year ending June 30th last, \$558,000,000; in the quarter ending Sept. 30th last, \$158,000,000.

There flowed out of those pockets, in actual expenditures, in the last fiscal year, \$520,750,940.

The income of the Government, for the last fiscal year exceeded the estimates more than \$90,000,000.

The Departments lived well within their means. The War Department thought it should use \$307,788,750, but it spent only \$119,080,464. The Navy called for \$35,000,000, and got rid of only \$26,802,000; the civil service required only \$30,485,500, instead of \$32,994,052; so that the expenditures fell below the estimates by the handsome sum of \$200,529,235.

European capitalists hold \$600,000,000 of United States securities—to wit: \$350,000,000 in Government bonds, \$150,000,000 in State and City bonds, and \$100,000,000 in Railroads and miscellaneous.

During the last fiscal year we imported \$427,809,810 of foreign goods, of which \$368,508,051 paid duty, and of which \$10,263,233 (in currency value) was re-exported. The net imports (that is, deducting that re-exported,) of specie reached \$6,928,459. Total imports of goods and specie, (gold value), \$423,975,036.

During the same period we exported domestic merchandise to the amount of \$333,322,085 (gold value), and \$82,643,374 in specie. Total exports of goods and specie (gold value), \$415,965,459.

Apparent balance of trade against us, \$8,009,577.

Estimated receipts of the next fiscal year, \$436,000,000; estimated expenditures for same period, \$359,247,641.

CONTENT.

Think'st thou the man whose mansions hold
The worldling's pomp and miser's gold,
Obtains a richer prize
Than he who, in his cot at rest,
Finds heavenly peace a willing guest,
And bears the promise in his breast
Of treasure in the skies!

SELECTING AND PRESERVING SEED OF FIELD CROPS.

To insure a good crop of grain, roots, or any other crop, we must plant good sound seed. In no other way may we expect reliable, satisfactory crops; for 'tis said in the good Book, "Whatever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." If he sows tares for wheat, he must expect to reap tares; so if he sows grain that is imperfect, although it may grow, it will be very likely to make a slow, sickly growth, never making a strong plant, nor perfecting first quality of seed. All grain seeds are furnished with oil and starch, which are designed to furnish nutriment to the germ when it first starts, before becoming capable of extracting it from the soil. Now, if anything affects these, such as mold, etc., the plant that should happen to grow from such seed would be influenced by the imperfection in its growth. The stinting of a plant just starting into life affects all its after growth. The only proper way of selecting seed is before, or as soon as it has perfected itself in the field. All grains designed for seed should be perfectly ripe. Wheat, rye, etc., should be carefully threshed by hand, winnowed clean, and all small or imperfect seed screened out, reserving only the plumpest and best for use. By pursuing this course we are gradually improving both the quality and the quantity of our productions. Indian corn, which is very liable to fail when the seed is not properly preserved, should be selected at the time of gathering, selecting the best and most perfect ears, those well filled out over the tip, deep, large kernels and closely set on the cob, no short rows nor vacant spaces in any part; these ears should be strung up in bunches by the husk and hung up to cure, where the grain will not be subject to frost before curing, or damp, warm air afterwards. Less care is usually taken in selecting tubers, or roots, for planting or maturing seed for another season, than in the cereals. With many, "if it is a root of its kind, it will do for seed;" but we find by experience, it will pay for selecting the best formed, having all the marked characteristics of its kind, from which to grow seed or tubers. In selecting potatoes for planting, a medium sized is to be preferred; they should be the best of the kind; these and all other roots or tubers should be selected as soon as ripe, and gathered, laid away in sand where they will keep at a uniform temperature, and not subject to either wet or dry-
ing out.

W. H. WHITE.

Rural American.

South Windsor, Conn.

It is the duty of every man to take some good, reliable, entertaining paper, and pay for the same promptly—of course.

The Manufacture of Manure.

Many of our farmers complain that they cannot make enough manure, and I never yet have found a good one who has had too much. Now I think that if a farmer has hay enough there need be no difficulty in obtaining enough manure.

We see many of our barnyards constructed with escape holes in the wall along the lowest side of the yard, and from these holes a passer-by can scarcely fail to notice the very essence of the manure escaping. The most valuable portions of the manure are those which are soluble, and of course these are broken up by the water in its passage through the manure and out of the yard.

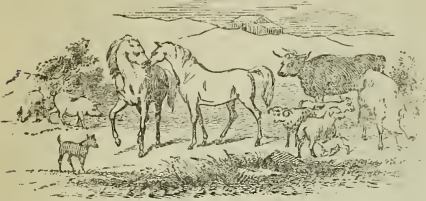
Not long since I was arguing with one of my neighbors upon the propriety of stopping up these holes in his barnyard wall, when he met my objection with the assertion that he could not keep his yard clean enough to keep cattle in. A farther investigation showed that his barn was not supplied with rain spouts, and consequently there was more water in the yard than fell there in a direct descent. Yet this same farmer would complain that he "could not make manure enough," and this too when the most valuable portion of what he did make was escaping into the public road and into his neighbor's land.

If no more water finds its way into the yard than that which falls into it, there should be no difficulty in keeping it clean with the material found on a common farm, such as coarse grass from the swamps and lowland, sods from the road side, tussocks from the meadows, whose removal, while it benefits the manure pile, also improves the appearance of the meadow. If these are all used up then it will be time enough to complain of the difficulty of not being able to make enough manure.—*Cor. Germantown Telegraph.*

MANURING WHEAT.—J. H. Simmons writes to the Rural New Yorker, that he tried different modes of manuring wheat, including on the sod in spring before breaking up, turning it under at the last ploughing before sowing; top-dressing after ploughing but before seeding, and top-dressing early in winter when the ground is frozen. He finds manuring on the sod in spring to be best. This result appears to confirm the practice often urged of top-dressed sod in autumn for corn, and owes its efficacy probably to the perfect manner in which the manure is diffused among the roots of the grass.

THE maid I love has dark-brown eyes,
And rose-leaf lips of red,
She wears the moonshire round her neck,
The sunshine round her head;
And she is rich in every grace,
And poor in every guile,
And crowned kings might envy me
The splendor of her smile.

Live Stock Register.



HEALTH OF COWS.

Good health in domestic animals is always a matter of primary importance.

As bad health in parents transmits a tendency to disease in the offspring, it is important that every kind of animal we desire to continue on our farms should be kept vigorous and healthy.

As domestic animals are a source of human food it is a matter of great importance to preserve them in a healthy condition. Diseased meat carries its qualities in'o the stomach of its consumers. It is a serious objection which vegetarians urge against the use of animal food, that the artificial circumstances in which animals live, and the bad treatment they receive, renders them unhealthy.

As an unhealthy animal cannot consume food to as good advantage as a well one, it is again economical to avoid disease.

As comparative misery and discomfort accompany disease, it is humane as well as economical to see to it that the animals under our care enjoy as far as possible their creature comforts.

Each of these circumstances is a sufficient reason for guarding with scrupulous care the health of the animals we feed; but when we derive milk from animals, it is doubly important that they are kept free from every objectionable taint. A sickly cow not only yields a diminished profit, but she yields sickly milk, and sickly in a higher degree than her flesh.

If a cow eats anything that has a strong or disagreeable odor, it appears in her milk.

If she eats anything medicinal, it comes out in her milk.

If she is feverish, her milk shows it.

If she has sores about her, pus may be found in her milk.

If she is fed upon decayed or diseased food, her milk, since it is derived from her food, will be imperfect. It is as impossible to make good milk from bad food, as to make a good building from rotten timber.

If there is anything wrong about her, it will ap-

pear in the milk, as that is an effective source of casting filth from her organism.

These facts should at all times be well impressed upon the minds of dairymen, more especially at this season of the year. Closely confined in their narrow stalls through the long winter, where the air is not always fresh and pure, nor water and exercise always had when desired, nor their food always free from foul medicinal weeds, as thistles, daisies, white top, &c., cows are very likely to vary from a perfectly healthy condition; spring cheese will be faulty enough, to do the best we can; that every dairyman knows. The health of the cows should not, at any rate, be allowed to become a cause of deterioration. Green food should now, if it has not been before, alternated as often as possible with the dry; for this purpose, beets, carrots, turnips, potatoes, cabbages, parsnips and apples are valuable.

Ventilation and watering should be promptly attended to, and salt and meal made by pulverizing burnt bones, should be kept where daily access can be had to them, if desired, nor should their strength and flesh be allowed to fail for the want of a sufficiently nutritious diet. The best flavored butter and cheese cannot be made from cows that are badly fed, or ailing, or poor.—*Little Falls Dairy Farmer.*

THE WAY TO CATCH SWINE.

Swine of all ages and conditions are commonly averse to being handled; and they manifest their disapprobation of it by squealing, kicking and fighting; and when a number are together, of certain breeds, the pugnacity of the whole herd is aroused when we attempt to handle any of their number. Pigs and hogs that one man can handle, should be caught by one hind leg with one hand, while the other hand and arm is passed around the body, and they are taken up in the arms, with their back against the catcher. Large hogs should be caught, first by the hind legs, when two other hands seize him by the ears and bristles. Now he opens his mouth, and like a stentor cries, "murderation!" Now have a noose on the end of a rope ready, and slip it around his snout. (Sows with pig should seldom be noosed.) In order to get the rope on the hind leg, when they are feeding at the trough, go up carefully behind them and lay the noose on the floor close to the foot, holding it with one hand, and touch the leg with a little stick, and the hog will take up his foot, when the noose must be instantly moved so that he will step into it. Now raise it above the hoof, nearly to the hock joint, and draw it tight, and he is fast. After we have succeeded in raising his leg, he is easily managed. If he is a large strong animal, crowd him into a corner with a handspike after his leg is noosed; then it will be easy to close his snout.—*Boston Cultivator.*

MERINO AND MUTTON SHEEP.

Every week finds the columns of most of the agricultural journals of the United States teeming with statements about Merinos—their wonderful fleeces—the prices which they have sold for, &c., &c. How much space do we find devoted in the same journals to statements respecting mutton, wool and other products of our South Down, Shropshire, Leicester and Cotswold flocks? We do not find a tenth part as much space devoted to the latter. What is the reason for this? It is doubtless in a considerable measure due to the fact that, owing to circumstances which all reading men understand, the Merino is now in much greater demand than any other sheep. But this does not explain the whole fact. There are men enough who are so suited with reference to markets, &c., that the circumstances which favor Merinos in other localities, do not extend to them. They need English sheep. They desire to obtain them. Yet, if they want any information in regard to the latest improvements in any particular family, where are they to find it? Can they go to books for this detail or that, when every five years is making a revolution in those details? The transcendent skill which is brought to bear on breeding the mutton sheep of England, is constantly producing marvelous and marvelously rapid changes. We have an example in the improved Lincolns, partially described by Mr. Beebe. There are other instances in the Oxfordshires, Oxfordshire Downs, Shropshires, &c. Indeed, in some of the sheep exhibited by Mr. Thorne, at the recent State Fair at Utica, we thought we saw a manifest improvement on the South Down model of Mr. Ellman—once so familiar to us—and even on that of Webb. These improvements and changes take place to a considerably extent *annually*. No man can be “posted” in them who has not the sheep under his eye, or who does not read some periodical which gives constant information on the subject.—*Randall*.

A HINT IN BREEDING.—Mr. Torr, the well-known breeder of Short-Horn cattle and Leicester sheep, in the course of some remarks at his recent letting of the latter, touching on breeding in general, said:

“The way to establish uniformity or family likeness is to begin by putting the best male to the best female, and to continue to put *the best to the best*; secondly, “not to put opposite characters together, or the traits of both will be lost; but if any fresh characteristic is required to be imparted to the issue of present stock animals, this must be done by degrees, or by that discreet selection which will yield a little more wool, or size and substance, the first year, and a little more and more in the second and third generations, and so on.”

MANAGEMENT OF RESTIVE HORSES.

A Correspondent writes: “I have a valuable mare of very high spirits. Last year she began to be restive about starting, so much so that it was dangerous to drive her single. She was impatient to start, and if held in, would rear and pitch about, sometimes throwing herself down. Finding the matter becoming serious, I undertook to cure her, and succeeded perfectly.

“The *modus operandi* is this: Let the driver have the entire charge of her, and take pains, by gentle usage and kindness, to be on good terms with her. When she is to be driven let him harness her himself, talking to and patting her during the process. When all is ready, go to the head and stand, without holding, if possible, till everything is in the buggy but yourself. Now, holding the lines, step back a pace or two. She will probably start. If she does, pull her up without a jerk, speaking kindly to her as soon as she is still. If she backs up or rears, hold her by the head, but do not strike her. Repeat the process till she is mad enough to stand still, and take that time to get in. Now, if you order her to start, she will probably make more trouble; wait, therefore, till she is ready—you can tell by watching her ears—then give her the word and let her go. By pursuing this plan a few weeks a radical cure may be effected; this, at least, is my experience. One very important point is, never on any account use any severity with a horse of that disposition; it can never do any good, and is always sure to do hurt. It should be remembered that, while it is never necessary to give up to a horse, it is often advisable to humor them.”—*Exchange*.

TRAINING HEIFERS.—A Pennsylvania Farmer, who has trained and milked heifers for more than fifty years, and never has any trouble about their jumping, kicking or running, gives the *Rural American* the following as the secret: When I intend to raise a heifer-calf for a milch-cow, I always “raise it by hand,” and when feeding frequently handle it by rubbing it gently over the head and neck until it becomes tame and gentle. The rubbing is begun at the first feeding with milk, and continued until I quit feeding it; I never afterward had any trouble about milking them.

TOO MUCH SALT HURTFUL.—A writer in the *Prairie Farmer* declares that cattle will eat too much salt if they can get it, and that it is hurtful, inasmuch that it will affect their condition. The Government allows only two ounces per week for each animal, which he thinks is enough, and more is decidedly injurious, especially when the quantity is greatly increased beyond this.

THE MARYLAND FARMER

AT \$1.50 PER ANNUM,
PUBLISHED ON THE 1ST OF EACH MONTH,
BY

S. SANDS MILLS & CO.
No. 24 South Calvert Street.
CORNER OF MERCER,
BALTIMORE.

S. SANDS MILLS, } PUBLISHERS AND PROPRIETORS.
E. WHITMAN, }

BALTIMORE, JANUARY 1, 1867.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:

\$1.50 per annum, in advance—6 copies for \$7.50—10 copies
\$12.00.

Revision of our Rates of Advertising.

The extended circulation of our *Farmer*, with the increased expense necessarily attending its publication, admonish us that the very low charges heretofore made for Advertising is far inadequate, as a remuneration, for the heavy outlay incidental to publishing a Magazine like ours. The prices charged for the past three years were the same as established by our *Rural Register* long before the war, when work and material were nearly one-half less. Notwithstanding the increased rates, our terms are still *lower* than any similar journal in the country, at the same time we offer equal inducements—as our old advertising friends can testify. The following is our new Schedule of Rates for 1867:

1 Square of 10 lines or less, each insertion.....	\$1 50
1 Page 12 months	120 00
1 " 6 "	75 00
½ " 12 "	70 00
½ " 6 "	40 00
1 " Single insertion.....	20 00
Each subsequent insertion, not exceeding four.....	15 00
½ Page, single insertion	12 00
Each subsequent insertion, not exceeding four.....	8 00
Cards of 10 lines, yearly. \$12. Half yearly, \$7.	

Collections on yearly advertisements made quarterly, in advance.

TO ADVERTISERS.

Our friends desiring to avail themselves of our advertising columns, as a medium of extending their business, are requested to send in the *copy* by the 20th of the month, as we are compelled to put the last advertising form to press by the 25th, so as to enable us to issue promptly by the 1st.

POSTMASTERS.—Postmasters are authorized to act as agents for the "*Maryland Farmer*"—to whom a liberal discount will be allowed.

OUR NEW VOLUME.

THE NEW YEAR GREETING.

With the present number commences a new volume of the *MARYLAND FARMER*, and custom sanctions with the advent of a New Year, those pleasant greetings which at other times would be regarded as obtrusive and out of place. With many good wishes then for the future welfare of all our subscribers, and with especial thanks for the kindly words with which they have encouraged our labors, we bid them a happy New Year. If, too, in the midst of the festivities of the season, mingled though they may be with some mournful remembrances, and stunted perhaps of many good things that a lavish hospitality once delighted to offer to friends and acquaintances—there should come a pause in the conversation in which the thoughts turn to absent friends, we venture to hope that we of the *FARMER* may put in a claim to remembrance by virtue of our earnest desire to do all that lies in our power to promote the best interests of those in whose service we have enlisted, and to whose experiences in Agriculture the columns of the *FARMER* are always open.

THE BROMWELL HAND-LOOM AGAIN.

In our October number, we submitted a description and illustration of the Bromwell Hand-Loom, to the consideration of our readers. Since then, one of these valuable machines has been received by the agents, Messrs. E. Whitman & Sons, and set up in our office, where it can be examined at any time in full operation.

We invite all who may be interested in this class of machine to call and examine for themselves, being convinced that they will not fail to be pleased.

The Loom is very simple in its construction, easily put together, and executes its work with rapidity and in a workmanlike manner. Its operation has been witnessed by a number of visitors interested in such things, who pronounce it the most perfect Loom of its kind to which their attention has been called. The attention of the hundreds who are now using the old style Loom, is called to this machine.

We refer to Messrs. E. W. & Sons' advertisement in another column for further particulars.

THE SOUTHERN CULTIVATOR:

A Practical and Scientific Journal, for the Plantation, the Garden, and the Family Circle.

The 25th volume of this old Southern favorite, commences with the January No. 1867. It is the best agricultural journal published in this country. We cheerfully recommend it to our farmers as worthy of their patronage—and as a good advertising medium for business people. Published by Wm. N. White, Athens, Georgia, at \$2 per annum.

The *Maryland Farmer* and *Southern Cultivator*, both one year for \$3.

Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Maryland State Agricultural and Mechanical Association.

The first quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee of the Agricultural and Mechanical Association was held at their office, No. 67 West Fayette street, on Thursday, December 4th.

On motion of Mr. N. B. Worthington, John Merriam, Esq., was elected as the permanent chairman of the committee.

The committee appointed to wait upon Mr. Ross Winans reported the result of the interview, with the following letter from Mr. W., declining the position to which he was elected :

BALTIMORE, Nov. 30th, 1866.

Gentlemen—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 21st instant, apprising me that at a meeting of the Maryland State Agricultural Society I had been elected its President for the ensuing year. I had already learned by the public papers that this honor had been conferred upon me, and of course have had time to deliberate upon what, under the circumstances, it is proper and becoming for me to do. I need not assure you that I place great value upon such a mark of confidence and esteem from a body of gentlemen of whom it may truly be said that they represent what is most worthy, estimable and dignified in Maryland society. Nor need I enlarge upon the concern which I take in the great interest which the Association you represent is designed to promote. I can say with truth that I consider the improvement of the soil of Maryland and the advancement of the welfare and prosperity of the farmers as transcending in present and future importance all the other interests of the State.

But, gentlemen, I regret that personal considerations, to which I must yield, constrain me to decline this honor so far beyond my deserts and so wholly unexpected by me. I have already attained an age which admonishes me that it would be unwise and unsafe to assume more burdens and responsibilities than those which now rest upon me, and which already engross all the time I can devote to their proper discharge. And if I could even disregard this consideration, I have for some time had in contemplation a visit to Europe, where most of my family are residing, and my stay there may be so protracted, and at all events must be so uncertain, that I feel I would be doing injustice to you if, with it in view, I were to accept the honor you offer me. It has been an invariable practice of my life never to undertake any public or private charge without the determination to devote to it my personal attention, and I am sure if I were to accept the presidency of your society, under existing circumstances, I should have to depart from this just and salutary rule. But, gentlemen, although I cannot consent to preside over your deliberations, I shall not cease to regard the election of which you have notified me as a personal compliment of the highest value, and shall be glad to contribute in every proper manner to the prosperity of your Association.

With great regard,

Your most obedient servant,

ROSS WINANS.

A. Bowie Davis, Jas. Pentland, Chas. M. Dougherty, Esqs.

On motion of Mr. Bowie, the Executive Committee was divided into three sub-committees, as follows :

To Prepare Charter—James T. Earle, E. Law Rogers, Gen. E. Shriver.

On Finance—C. M. Dougherty, Col. E. Wilkins, E. G. Ulery.

On Fair Grounds—Col. O. Bowie, E. Whitman, N. B. Worthington.

On motion of C. M. Dougherty, Esq., the chairman was added as an ex-officio member of each committee.

The committee then adjourned to meet on Tuesday, 9th January, 1867.

AGRICULTURAL CONVENTION OF VIRGINIA.

In the late convention of prominent and intelligent agriculturists of Virginia, at Richmond, of which Hon. Willoughby Newton was president, the several subjects to be considered, as labor, land, finance, usury, immigration, &c., having been referred to committees, were fully reported upon.—These have been discussed ably by such members as ex-Governor Smith, Hill Carter, Hon. James Lyon, General Imboden and others. Among the important measures discussed and acted upon was the repeal of the usury laws, or laws of the State prohibiting a higher rate of interest than 6 per cent. Ex-Governor Smith and General Imboden favored the repeal, on the grounds that capital was more a necessity to the farmers and people of Virginia than labor; just now. They both thought that the farmers were not such dolts as that they could not make good bargains in greenbacks or gold as well as in other articles, and the only way to get capital was to pay for it. After considerable debate resolutions reported by the committee were adopted expressing the opinions of the convention in favor of a modification of the usury law by the Legislature making 6 per cent. the legal interest where a higher sum is not stipulated by parties negotiating. The other great subject, of labor, received a good deal of attention. Mr. Carter gave his experience in renting lands on shares to freedmen, which was unfavorable, as they let the crops perish, but found paying wages better, though the influence of the freedmen's bureau made them idle, but they were getting better now that the bureau interfered less. Mr. Harvey, of Amelia, gave similar experience, and had in consequence, obtained white labor, German and English, and found the latter excellent. Mr. Sutherland, however, spoke in favor of negro labor, declaring that it could be made available if kept apart from the Freedmen's Bureau, and advised those who had to employ force to give the blacks the preference.—Mr. Jones, from the committee on labor, then reported the following resolutions, which were adopted.

Resolved, That while we should do all in our power to utilize all of the labor now in our midst,

white and colored, yet as this supply is not adequate to the wants of the country, that the land-holders in different sections should unite in offering such inducements to the immigrant as will induce him to settle in their midst.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed by the president of this society, whose duty it shall be to memorialize the Legislature of Virginia to encourage immigration to this State, and to make such appropriations as will be needed to carry out this object.

Resolved, That it is deemed by this body as most conducive to the mutual interests of the proprietors and the labor which we have, to employ the laborers for the longest practicable period, and to pay them money instead a portion of the crops.

Messrs. J. Ravenscroft Jones, William D. Hart, General William H. Richardson, James Lyons and Lewis E. Harvie were announced as the committee to carry out the objects of the foregoing.

The following gentlemen, representing the different sections of the State, were appointed a committee to test, examine and report upon such labor-saving machines and implements as the executive committee shall prescribe: W. M. Tate, R. W. N. Noland, W. C. Knight, General W. H. F. Lee, and R. H. Carter.

A resolution was adopted endorsing the Virginia Immigration Society, and recommending it to the fostering care of the Legislature, as the best means of introducing capital and labor into the State. A suggestion was made and endorsed, also, by the convention, approving of the settlement of Polish emigrants at New Poland, Spottsylvania county.

Finally, resolutions were adopted favorable to instruction of young men at colleges in mineralogy; in favor of a committee to inquire into the expediency of procuring guano and fertilizers on such terms as shall enable the farmers to pay for it out of the proceeds, who shall report to the Legislature, and inviting the Virginia farmers to hold county meetings to express their sentiments on the subject.

The matter of finance was not acted upon further than a report from the committee, in which it was thought impossible, at the present time, to do anything for the relief of the agricultural community through the medium of the banks, in consequence of the want of capital. The convention adjourned *sine die*.

ROLLING PASTURES.—J. D. Gros, in the *Country Gentleman*, says:—Much has been said of late in your paper on the *pasture*; but no one has recommended rolling pastures. I have rolled my pastures for two years with great benefit. Why? Because cattle, particularly heavy cattle, tread them up late in the fall during the rainy season, and they remain rough in the spring, and there is no way to get them smooth, except with a heavy roller. Try it farmers.

Maryland Agricultural College.

The Board of Trustees of the Maryland Agricultural College have elected the following professors of that institution: Gen. Custis Lee, (son of Gen. Robert E. Lee,) President and Professor of Mathematics, its Appliances and Military Science; N. B. Worthington, Professor of Moral and Mental Philosophy; Dr. James Higgins, Professor of Natural Science and Agriculture; Baptist Lorenzo, Professor of Ancient and Modern Languages. The annual salary of the president has been fixed at \$2,500 and a residence. The salary of each of the other professors is fixed at \$1,500 and a residence. The duties of the college are to be resumed on the 6th of February, 1867. Messrs. Calvert, Van Bokkelen and Purnell have been appointed as a business committee to make arrangements for the opening of the college, &c.

The Quantity of Ashes per Acre.

There is no definite quantity of either leached or unleached ashes, which may be set down as the proper amount to be applied on an acre. There is no danger of sowing too much of either leached, or unleached ashes. But when they are scattered on young turnips, or on other young plants, there is danger of applying so much, that the potash in them, will destroy every leaf that it may come in contact with.

Leached ashes are often hauled from a distant potashery, when they are quite wet. If not spread immediately they should be put under cover until they are dry enough to be sowed. Some farmers haul them, when they are quite wet, and spread them, with shovels. But more time will be required to spread them uniformly in this way, than it would require to dry them first; and, more than this, their effect will not be as good on the crop, when they are spread wet, as it would be if they were sowed, unless great care is exercised to spread them very evenly.—*S. Edwards Todd*.

GESTATION OF ANIMALS.—The period of gestation in certain animals is set down by a German author, who is said to be correct, as follows:

ANIMAL.	SHORTEST.	MEAN.	LONGEST.
Mare.....	322 days	347 days	419 days.
Cow.....	240 "	283 "	321 "
Sow.....	109 "	115 "	143 "
Ewe.....	146 "	154 "	161 "

A record of gestation of mares was kept, some years ago, at the experimental farm, established by the Government of France, by which it was shown that of 582 mares the shortest period was 287, and the longest 419 days, showing a difference of 132 days in one case!

Reorganization of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Donnelly, of Minnesota, introduced a bill in the House of Representatives, at Washington, on the 13th of December last, to reorganize the Department of Agriculture, which was read twice and reported to the Committee on Agriculture, and ordered to be printed.

The following embraces the substance of the bill:—

1. That within twenty days from the passage of the act, the President shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Senate, a Commissioner of Agriculture to be the chief executive officer of the Department—salary \$3,000.

2. That an Assistant Commissioner, shall be appointed in the same way, to have especial charge of the purchase and distribution of the seeds, cuttings and roots purchased or raised by the Department, and, in the absence of the Commissioner, to discharge the duties of his office—salary \$2,500.

3. That the Commissioner shall appoint a chemist to have full control of the laboratory—salary \$2,000; who may appoint his own assistant—salary \$1,600.

4. That the Superintendent of the Propagating Garden shall have charge of all the lands cultivated in this District which may be under the control of the Department.

5. That the Assistant Commissioner, in procuring seeds, cuttings and roots from foreign countries, shall purchase the same in those countries, and not from importers in the United States.

6. That all such purchases, with prices paid and places of purchase, shall be stated in detail in the Commissioner's Annual Report.

7. That one-third part of all seeds, cuttings, &c., purchased or raised, shall be transmitted to the leading agricultural and pomological societies of the United States, and that of the remainder, one-half, shall go to the members of the House and one-half to those of the Senate—the Commissioner stating in his report the quantity so delivered to each member and Senator, and the cost of the same.

SAMPLES OF WOOL.—We have received from Major Jos. E. Ficklin, of "Summer Duck Farm," Culpeper county, Va., samples of Spanish Merino wool, from twelve thorough bred ewes, from the celebrated flocks of George Campbell and E. Bridge, of Vermont. The sheep are now owned by Mr. Ficklin. They are as choice specimens of wool as we have examined for a long while. They can be examined at our rooms.

The American Journal of Horticulture and Florist's Companion.

Messrs. Tilton & Co., of Boston, have just issued a Monthly Journal of Horticulture which promises well. It is a magazine of some sixty pages, printed on good paper, and with clear, large type.

The list of contributors engaged to write for this magazine embraces the names of a large number of persons at the North, who are recognized as thoroughly capable of doing justice in their several departments, to the subjects on which they propose to treat. How far the magazine will meet the wants of Southern readers, will depend very much upon the manner in which it may be conducted. At the North, it will certainly be valuable, if we accept the initial number as a favorable example of those that are to follow after. There are, however, many suggestions that are of general application, and whilst rules laid down for observance in open air gardening at the North, would be out of place at the South; the treatment of conservatories and green houses would require in the latter but little modification.

OBITUARY.

Dr. M. W. Phillips, through the *Country Gentleman*, announces the death of our old friend and correspondent Dr. Hinkley, of Alabama, in the following touching manner. His many friends in Maryland will learn of their sad bereavement with feelings of profoundest grief:—

"It falls to my lot to announce, through you, to our agricultural friends, the decease of my loved and personal friend, Dr. HARGRAVE HINKLEY. He was stricken down by disease on his 45th birth-day, Oct. 23, 1866, and after suffering with Christian fortitude three weeks, he passed away. My friend H. was a native of Baltimore, Md. He moved to Louisiana many years ago and after a residence of years, he thought to try his fortunes on the line of the Central Railroad, in Illinois, from whence, at the beginning of our strife, he came to Mississippi, to my home, and made my neighborhood his residence for a while—then removed to Tennessee, or perhaps edge of Georgia, to manage a farm, but finally became a surgeon in the Confederate army, and charge, for a time, of the hospital in Demopolis, Ala., and at the close of the war resumed his farm operations in Greene county, Ala. He was a better Doctor than planter or farmer; which says enough, for as a farmer he had few—very few—who could excel him. His social qualities were very superior—a devoted friend, generous, high toned, and with all nobility of character; as a husband, even making every exertion to bear all the hardships, and shielding his loved one from every exposure, from every care, from all anxiety. He left a dear wife and a lovely daughter of tender age. Noble soul, fare thee well."

The Masonic Review.—We have received the first number of the *Masonic Weekly*, published in Baltimore by W. H. Richardson and J. B. Rose, and edited by P. G. M. John N. McJilton, P. G. M. C. H. Ohr, and G. Chaplain, John McCron.

The favorable auspices under which this enterprise has begun, together with the unquestioned talent it has secured, is a guarantee of its future success. Its typography is excellent, and its original and selected matter of a high order. The subscription price is \$4 per annum. We give this "due notice" that the craft may "govern themselves accordingly."

The Field and Fireside.—This Southern weekly, devoted to general literature and agriculture, is regularly received. It was established in 1855; suspended during the war, and resuscitated upon the termination thereof. It is gotten up in good style—well conducted, and published by Wm. R. Smith & Co., Raleigh, N. C., at \$5 per annum.

The Rural Journal.—Published monthly by the same firm—is devoted to agriculture and its kindred sciences. Subscription price \$1. It commences a new year in January, and is worthy the patronage of the agricultural public.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS AND SEEDS.—Banks, Slingluff & Co., proprietors of the Maryland Agricultural Works and Seed Store, 145 Pratt street, Baltimore, Maryland, offer through our columns every description of labor-saving machinery, &c., of the most approved patterns and styles; among which are the American Universal Cotton Gin and Condenser, Cotton Presses, and Prindle's celebrated Agricultural Cauldron and Steam Boiler, &c., &c., together with a large stock of Garden and Field Seeds. Those interested will examine their advertisement.

Horticultural.

CULTIVATION OF ORCHARDS.

No doubt many, if not all of the readers of the *Telegraph*, will wonder what more can be written upon the above important topic than has already appeared in your columns; but of the necessity of more and farther agitation of the question is evident from the condition of many of our orchards, and the usual amount of grumbling over a failure in the fruit crop.

Most of your correspondents who have forwarded communications on the above question, have given their ideas of the proper care of the orchard up to the first crop of fruit, but there, at what I consider to be the most important point, the question has been left.

Until the roots occupy all the space between the trees, there can be no harm in taking crops off the orchard, providing the soil is left in as good a state with regard to fertility as it was found. As far as my experience goes, I have found that cropping a young orchard with roots, well manured, is very beneficial to the growth of the trees; but I am not certain that the same cultivated with less manure and no crop would have been more so.

It seems to be a rule of nature that two crops cannot be taken off the same ground at the same time without detriment to one or both, equivalent to the value of the least valuable one, and often more. This rule will hold as good for fruit trees and corn, as for corn and pumpkins, or corn and turnips; and if, after the trees have spread their roots into the intervening spaces, we crop the ground with grain or roots, we rob the trees of their legitimate nourishment, and they are injured thereby in exactly the same proportion as one crop of grain or roots is increased, unless we take up the loss by a supply of manure or stimulant.

Most of our farmers, holding farms of one hundred acres or more, have orchards of from one-half to one acre. These orchards are usually enclosed, and are near the house; they are mostly cropped with corn, oats, wheat and grass, in the same manner as the remainder of the farm, until the shade of the trees render the crops of the grain unremunerative, and they are dropped. The artificial grasses will hold in for a year or two, and while they will cut a good swath, are mowed and hauled to the barn. After harvest, the orchard makes a convenient hog-yard, and the pigs pick up the wormy apples, thus killing the worm and saving the trouble of carrying the apples to the hog-pen, at least so say the advocates of this system.

Let us examine this apparently plausible argu-

ment and see how far (admitting that it is not an injury to the orchard) it will bear investigation. The question as to the propriety of pigs rambling over an acre lot, is one which is foreign to the heading of this communication, and must be left for some other time and article. But is the idea that the pigs destroy the worms a correct one? I think not, for a little investigation will generally show that the worm has left the apple before it falls, and has sought an asylum elsewhere, so that it is not destroyed by the digestive apparatus of the pig.

Of all the plans of taking two crops from an orchard, this probably works best, for by it less is actually taken off the ground than by alternative crops of grain and hay, and where more than the fruit *must* be obtained is probably the best.

But will not the fruit alone pay well? As well if not better than any other or any two crops which can be obtained from the space occupied by the orchard. If not, it would be better to do without the trees and buy apples from the Eastern markets; but we have too many living proofs that it does pay to admit of a denial or negative answer.

If, then, fruit as a crop will pay, why not keep the pigs out and pasture them elsewhere, and let the fruit do the best it can, as we would do for any other crop?

I have an orchard of about half an acre, which, until the trees commence to fruit, was cropped with an adjoining field in the usual rotation of corn, oats and wheat, and since then nothing has been taken out of the orchard except the fruit, and it has never failed to produce a good crop of perfect apples. It has probably not produced a greater amount in bushels than the orchards of many of my neighbors who have orchards of the same age and size, but it has never failed to produce a good crop of very perfect apples, which have always kept well without any extra care in packing.

Now, as a case in hand, to demonstrate the point to which I wish to call your attention, let us take the present season. My neighbors have pastured their orchards as has been their usual custom, and until the middle of July their orchards showed as good a chance for a good crop of fruit as mine did, but with this difference, that while their sod was cropped short and was thick set and tough, mine was loose, with grass from eighteen inches to two feet in length. About the first of July warm and dry weather set in, and we had no rain for an unusual length of time; the soil in their orchards became baked and hard, and the fruit commenced to fall off and continued to do so until very little was left, which little would have soon followed its

companions in misfortune had not we been favored with rain.

In my orchard, even during the dryest of the "dry spell," the soil never showed the effect of the absence of moisture, and a common walking cane could penetrate furrow deep at any time. None of the apples fell off until nearly ripe, nor did the trees show that they were affected by the dry weather.

The artificial grass (clover and timothy) have long since given place to the natural possessors of the soil, which by decay and constant adding have filled the soil with rich vegetable matter, which promises to produce more good fruit.—*Cor. Germantown Telegraph.*

BORER AND APPLE WORM.

J. B. Callender, of Northfield, in his report to the *Franklin Harvest Club*, after urging the importance of cultivation and careful attention to young trees, made the following remarks:

For six years at least, encourage the growth of wood by open culture in the orchard, obtaining from the land, by the usual manuring, such hoed crops as desired. Avoid the application of too much manure of a strong and forcing character to the roots of trees; a sweet, natural soil of good quality, kept open to the influence of the air and sun, with a light manuring, is best. Ashes, as a manure, I think excellent, heaping up close around the trunk early in spring, and the latter part of May, spreading upon the surface. Prepare to wage "eternal warfare" against the insect hosts that unceasingly and in every form attack tree, flowers and fruits. One great cause, if not the greatest, of the unproductiveness of our orchards, I conceive to be these insect enemies, whose voracity and insidious approach cannot be too much dreaded or too carefully guarded against. I think I came very near the loss of a large portion of a very fine young orchard through these means. I found to my dismay, on close examination of this orchard, shortly after purchasing, that Satan had stealthily crept into the garden in the form of the relentless borer, and had already tasted of the "forbidden fruit," and was mercilessly engaged in sapping the life of the trees. I perceived there was no time to be lost, and like good Christian of old, I buckled on my armour, and violently made at "Apollyon." With bent wires, sharp-pointed knives, gimlets, and what not as weapons, I succeeded, after a week or more of hard fighting, in bagging from about one hundred trees, more than six hundred of these "boring" imps, and thereby saved many valuable trees from destruction. I gloried considerably over this achievement, and fancied that the small com-

munities of borers which had escaped must have voted me a "bore." The only way to relieve our trees of the borer I conceive is to dig him out. The little worm whose progenitor is the Codling moth, which lays her eggs in the blossom end of the apple may be destroyed in a great measure by feeding the windfalls to the hogs as fast as they fall. The other insects, too numerous to be counted, that infest our fruit trees, to a considerable extent, may be destroyed by scraping the trees and washing with some alkaline solution. I used good soft soap for a wash, (from two to three quarts to a pail of water,) and wash the trees twice during the season, first the latter part of May and first of June, when the young insects, under the influence of the sun, are just waking into life, and before they are old enough to resist the influence of a little "soft soap," and again the latter part of the season.—*Boston Cultivator.*

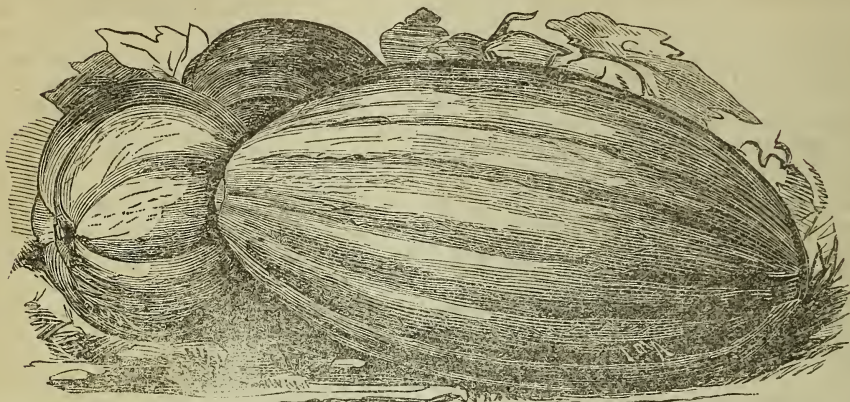
THE BORER.—We have determined, says the *Maine Farmer*, to persecute the borers till they shall seek other quarters than our orchards. We box up the tree a foot from the ground, and fill it with shavings or sawdust. If they attack the tree, it must be above the box, where they can easily be seen. It is easily done, and we see no reason why it will not be a preventive.

SNOW AND ICE AROUND TREES.—A remarkable instance of the effects of frost in overcoming the circulation of the sap in trees and destroying their life, occurred in London during the spring succeeding the hard winter of the year 1794. The snow and ice collecting in the streets, so as to become very inconvenient, they were cleared, and many cartloads were placed in the vacant quarters of Moorfields. Several of these heaps of snow and frozen rubbish were piled around some of the elm trees that grew there. At the return of spring, those of the trees that were not surrounded, with snow, expanded their leaves as usual, while the others being girt with a large frozen mass, continued quite bare; for the fact was, the absorbents in the lower part of the stem, and the earth in which the trees stood, were still exposed to a freezing cold. In some weeks, however, the snow was thawed, but the greater number of the trees were dead, and those few that did produce any leaves were sickly, and continued in a languishing state all summer, and then died.—*Horticulturist.*

Morning.

The Morning Lark, the messenger of Day,
Saluted in her song the Morning gray,
And soon the Sun arose with beams so bright
That all th' horizon laugh'd to see the joyous sight;
He with his tepid rays the Rose renews,
And licks the drooping leaves, and dries the dews.

ARLINGTON CANTELOUPE MELON.



Raised by Robert Sinclair, Jr., Clairmont, Baltimore County, Md. The drawing No. 1, represents the Arlington—No. 2, the ordinary Melon.

Cook's Favorite, Tilden and the Monumental Tomato Compared—Humbugs—Latakia (Turkish) Tobacco—Trellises.

BY ROBERT SINCLAIR, BALTIMORE, MD.

I purchased, last season, of a seed merchant in your city, two packets, containing less than a quarter of an ounce of Cook's Favorite and Tilden Tomato Seed, for which I paid fifty cents. I was tempted to make the purchase by seeing the figures and high praise accorded to those *new* productions. All three kinds were manured and cultivated alike. I find no material difference between Cook's Favorite and the Tilden. Neither produced more fruit than sixty to the vine, and averaged about thirty-five. The largest were ill shapen and ribbed similar to the original Tomato; the medium and small were round and smooth; the former full two inches in diameter, and the latter size of a lime.

The Monumental (called so merely for distinction) produced an average of one hundred and twenty on a vine, and with a rare exception, all round and smooth. The size, shape and run of the crop may be compared to the Newtown Pippin, Winesop and Pomme de Apie, (Apples.) As regards cooking qualities and solidity, there is no material difference.

If any of your planters can give the Tilden or Cook's Favorite a better reputation, under ordinary cultivation and management, than I have, let them report.

All those named were neither trellised nor the buds stopped. Doubtless the Tomato can be greatly improved in form, size and product, by judicious selection of seeds, stopping certain buds, trellising, and high culture. I expect to plant the Monumental, next year, exclusively, except a small patch of the Pear-shaped for making Tomato figs.

Cannot some plan be devised to put a stop to vegetable and fruit humbugging? It puts money in the hands of a certain class of men to the serious cost and disappointment of the cultivator.

I have about five hundred plants of the Latakia Tobacco, introduced by Bayard Taylor, Esq., from Mount Lebanon. It is a superb Tobacco, as far as appearance is concerned, and is now nearly ready for the curing process. I hope, by the last of October, to test its smoking qualities. As regards topping and suckering it requires more labor and time than any variety of Tobacco that I have seen or cultivated.

A very simple and cheap trellis, suitable for the Tomato and other vines, may be made with iron, or elastic wooden hoops, stretched on two stakes, two and a half feet apart, with a stretcher between the stakes to hold the hoops in place, and to draw them to an oval shape, similar to the common carriage spring, five hoops, or an odd number. I prefer the first growth trained inside of the hoops, entwining as they advance, the tops being also on the inside of the fifth hoop. By thus entwining the vines may be separated, and no ties requisite. For garden culture the stakes and hoops should be painted white, to give a pleasing variety of colors—red, white and green.—*Gardener's Monthly*.

Moss on Flower Pots.—Ladies who are fond of cultivating flowers in the house, will find great benefit to the plants by spreading a coating of moss over the earth in their flower pots. This keeps the water from evaporating, and the temperature more uniform. Tea-grounds are often used for the same purpose. Where a flower-pot sets in a saucer, with a hole in the bottom of the pot, put a little sand in the saucer and cover it with moss, and you have a simple and admirable arrangement.

SEASONABLE HINTS.

From the December number of the *Horticulturist* we glean the following hints:

ALL FRUIT TREES should be carefully looked over at this season, for the purpose of destroying insects. Borers may have laid themselves up cozily, for winter quarters, in the bodies of the quince, apple, pear, mountain ash, or plum tree. A good, strong, and sharp knife, to cut away dead bark and wood, and a strong piece of wire are the requisite tools for the work, following it, if you please, by washing or coating the wound with some mixture of soft soap, sulphur, tobacco water, &c., or with a cheap shellac varnish. The eggs of caterpillars should be sought for on the small branches and in the forks of the tree.

The coccus, or scale insect, should be destroyed by washing the bodies and limbs of trees to which they have attached themselves. Strong lye water, or a mixture of soft soap and fresh-slacked lime will destroy them.

STRAWBERRY BEDS, if not already mulched, should be attended to without delay. Some cultivators argue that strawberry vines are better never to be mulched until after the ground becomes frozen, and that then the mulch should be applied, and so hold the vines in a more dormant condition than if the mulch is applied before frost. However correct this may be, in any event all strawberry vines *pay* for the labor of light mulching.

GRAFTS cut this month, before severe cold weather, and laid away in a cool cellar with, say one-half their length, the lower half, in clean sand, we consider more likely to succeed when wanted for use than if the cutting is left until some time in February, or after severe cold has to a certain extent reduced their vitality.

WATERING TREES.—Strange as it may seem to the mind of the practised horticulturist, there are novices who are under the impression that a newly-transplanted tree requires to be watered from time to time, whether planted in spring or fall. As a rule, we believe watering trees at any time has resulted in more injury than good; but certainly no person should water a newly-planted tree, whether evergreen or deciduous, except during the growing season, and then only in dry hot weather, when not a wetting of the roots, but a perfect showering of the whole tree should be given.

If the weather continues open, all hardy deciduous trees may yet be planted. We prefer very late fall, or even mid-winter planting, so that the ground is not frozen, to that of the spring. Mulch all newly-planted trees, taking care that the litter is kept so far from the body of the tree that mice cannot form

their nests, and in time of deep snows gather their living by eating the bark, and so destroying the tree.

GRAFTING may be safely performed this month, and indeed any time during winter, upon all hardy trees like the pear and apple. Be careful that the wax covering forms a perfect exclusion of air and moisture.

DRAINING.—The winter is often comparatively a leisure season. It may be profitably occupied in most cases in draining orchards or vineyards, gardens, &c. Make the ditches narrow, two and one-half to three feet deep, and use two-inch tile for the primary drains, and four to six-inch tile for the mains or outlets.

LEAVES, and a good heap of rich loamy soil, should be gathered this month, and placed under cover, for use in forming hot-beds early in spring.

Avoid giving drenching waterings to all house plants at this season, and remember to keep the temperature of the house low. A high temperature causes very rapid absorption of moisture, and a flacid unhealthy growth to the plant, enfeebling and unfitting it to give beauty of foliage or bloom.

If you have not yet mulched around your newly-planted trees, do so at once. If possible, at this season, also, use fresh stable manure, as in its nature it imparts more warmth; and during the winter, more or less of its value becomes incorporated with the soil about the roots, and causes them to make an early and vigorous growth.

Look over beds of Japan lillies, hyacinths, tulips, &c., and see that no mice are preying on them. If any evidence of their appearance, place sticks, or strips of cloth, dipped in coal tar, in and around the bed.

Should there come a warm, "soft spell of weather," say two weeks, or so, the mulch covering of bulb beds should be removed, but again returned *immediately* on approach of a change of temperature to cold.

CARROTS, to keep well and not sprout, should have the crown cut completely off, and not the petioles of the leaves only. In this manner there is no loss of the saccharine matter, as in the case when the crown is left on, and sprouts are continually breaking forth.

UNDERDRAINING is always advantageous.

ONLY A CRIER—AN EPIGRAM.

A famous Judge came late to Court
One day in busy season;
Whereat his clerk, in great surprise,
Inquired of him the reason.
"A child was born," his Honor said,
"And I'm the happy sire."
"An infant Judge?" "No," said he,
"As yet he's but a Crier."

Process for Dissolving Bones used as a Fertilizer.

To procure fertilizers for the tobacco field is always an important point to the grower, and the following discovery promises valuable assistance wherever bones are obtainable. The importance of phosphates, such as common bones, as fertilizers could hardly be extolled, and it would be presuming upon the intelligence of our farmers to say more than to recommend their practical application. There exist, however, some obstacles which yet prevent waste bones, nearly always cheap and within easy reach, from being generally used. The great distances in the Far West and other inconveniences render their purchase in powder form expensive, and for grinding them at home or dissolving them in acid there is still less chance.

Professor Ilienbof, in Russia, has, however, lately discovered a method for dissolving them which must prove highly economical and suitable in unsettled countries, where, owing to the great abundance of forests, wood ashes are cheaply secured, indeed are almost always ready at hand. This process of treating bones consists of mixing them with wood ashes and slacked caustic lime, and keep the mixture constantly moist. As in the preparation of lye for manufacturing soap, the alkaline carbonates in the ashes, such as carbonate of potassa, are, by the action of caustic lime, converted into free caustic potassa, attacking and quickly dissolving the bones.

The following practical example will illustrate the necessary proceeding:

Suppose the wood ashes to contain about ten per cent. carbonate potassa, and that 4,000 pounds of bones are to be worked up; then we take 4,000 pounds of ashes, 600 pounds of caustic lime, 4,500 pounds of water; a ditch some two feet deep, of such width and length as to hold 6,000 pounds of the mixture, and near it a second ditch, being some 25 per cent. larger, and both lined with boards. The lime is then slacked, and when crumbled to a powder, mingled with the wood ashes, and 2,600 pounds of bones piled up in layers and covered up with the mass in the smaller ditch, 3,600 pounds of water added, and the whole left to itself. From time to time small quantities of water are added to keep the mass moist. As soon as it is found that the bones are so far decomposed that when pressed between the fingers they are soft and crumble, the second portion, that is, the other 2,000 pounds of bones, is brought into the larger ditch and covered in layers with the first mass, and left to decompose.

After the whole mass has undergone decomposition, it is suffered to dry by removing it, and, lastly, to facilitate its reduction to powder, mixed with

4,000 pounds of dry turf, or some other dry vegetable earth. The mixture is repeatedly stirred about with a shovel, and may at once be brought upon the fields. Manure prepared thus will contain about twelve per cent. of tribasic phosphate of lime, and two per cent. of nitrogeous matter.

Liebig, in generally recommending this new fertilizer, thinks an addition of gypsum an improvement for many kinds of fruits.

BEST KIND OF CORN HOUSE.

The evils attending the corn-house, as usually constructed, are—the amount of rain and snow which drive in between the vertical siding, necessarily open to admit air—and, what is far worse, the moulding of the corn next the floor for want of air.

Having occasion, a few years since, to build a corn house, I adopted the following method for avoiding these evils:

First—the frame was thickly studded, to receive horizontal siding. Next—the siding was clapboards or common house-siding, six inches wide, and lapped one inch and a half. To admit air, put a thin board under the lap on each stud. It may be from one-quarter to one-half an inch thick, and two inches square. Or perhaps a better form is, six inches, or the width of a siding in length and two inches wide, slanting off the upper end with a draw-knife or shave. Strike a line on each siding for the lap, and track the blocks on the line and the stud above. A little light snow will occasionally drive through these crevices, but will soon disappear without sensibly wetting the corn.

To prevent moulding in the bottom, make a floor of boards three inches wide, with spaces of an inch between. The flooring should be over an inch thick. This kind of flooring, of course, is only for the bins. The joists or sleepers should be near together to support it. On such a floor you can make the bins as wide as you please.—*Cor. Western Rural.*

TEMPER IN TREATING STOCK.—The farmer's stock around him partakes more or less of the quality of the owner or those who attend upon it. A man's influence is imparted to his beasts, particularly the horses, the working cattle, and the milch cows. A man of irascible temper gets up nervousness in a horse or a cow. The brute becomes afraid of him; and if of a vicious nature, is apt to be hurtful, spitefully influenced, perhaps irreclaimably spoiled—whereas a mild-tempered, discriminative man will gradually smooth down the asperities of a harsh disposition. We have known milch cows, wild as deer, brought to a placid tractability. The man is a superior—and his superior influence will be communicated. Wise stock-men keep fools and irritants out of their stock-yards.—*Ex.*

Grape Culture.

GRAPE SOILS.

Much has been said *pro* and *con* in the pages of the Horticulturist, in that of other journals, and in the meetings of fruit growers, relative to the soils best adapted to profitable grape-growing. The subject has been, and continues to be, one of great interest, as a larger amount of capital is probably being invested in grape culture than in that of any other one crop connected with horticultural, and we might almost say, with agricultural pursuits.—Each advocate of a particular soil or location, has his "good and sufficient" reasons for his preferment, and as each advances them, he too often considers his opponent as ultra and intractable. Good feeling and a conciliatory spirit should ever characterize the remarks of the horticulturist, for the scope of their pursuits is over the whole world, and unlike the politician no party purpose or office aggrandisement can be embraced as a motive of action. We have watched these advocates of clay soil, of loam or sand, and have no doubt all are sanguine of the truth of their advancements, and from our impression of their *stand point*, we do not doubt them.—But the extent of climate and the varied condition of that climate also, within a radius of often not more than two to five miles; the impression of one that fruit for eating purposes is the thing sought; of another that wine only, and that of a particular kind, is the object; the experience of one with certain sorts of grapes, unknown, in practice, to another, are all points of reason for the apparent differences of opinion. As we have said, we have watched these disputations, and in collecting them bring about something like the following results:—1st. That the grape of some variety can be grown in almost any location or soil, and that too with satisfactory results in fruit returns. 2nd. That locations adjoining large bodies of water have the greatest certainty of success with all varieties. 3rd. That with the light colored grapes, as Catawba, Iona, &c., heavy clayey soil well underdrained, promise most valuable for production of fruit for wine purposes. 4th. That with the black grapes the character of the soil is not so essential to give satisfactory results or quality for wine purposes. In this last item we may err in our deductions but it is the result of our opinion from our watchings of opinions, and from our years of examination of both grapes and wines in various parts of the States. No one, therefore, should be deterred from planting, but before investing too largely in the pursuit, it may be well to call the aid of some experienced person and get a knowledge of what is probably best for the locality and soil of the proposed vineyard.—*Horticult.*

The Poultry House.

BEST VARIETIES OF POULTRY.

Having on many occasions been solicited by my friends to write a brief detail of the merits of the different breeds of our domestic poultry, I herewith send you the same in as clear and simple a manner as possible, with such practical remarks appended to each, that the birds most suited to the particular requirements of each amateur and breeder may be easily selected.

DORKINGS.—Gray, silver gray, speckled and white dorkings. Excellent barn-yard fowls; good layers and sitters; very good mothers; not calculated for confinement; unequalled as a table or market fowl; very large.

BRAHMA POOTRA.—An invaluable fowl. Excellent layers; perfect sitters and mothers; so hardy they can be hatched and reared in any weather. These birds bear any confinement, and as winter layers excel all other birds.

BLACK SPANISH.—Very handsome birds—the aristocracy of poultry. Lay larger eggs than any other breed, and in great numbers; thrive in any locality, however confined; do not sit; their color suited for any atmosphere.

COCHIN CHINA.—Seem to prefer a very limited space; capital layers; very hardy; seldom or never out of condition; good sitters; chickens very easily reared; pullets hatched in spring and good winter layers.

HAMBURGS.—Very handsome birds; unusually good layers; bear moderate confinement well; do not sit; most attractive on lawns. Varieties—Spangled Hamburgs, Pencilled Hamburgs.

POLANDS.—Remarkably handsome birds; very good layers, but non-sitters; unfit for confinement. Varieties—Golden and silver spangled, and black with white topknots.

BANTAMS.—Useful to those who are fond of birds, and are deterred from keeping them by lack of accommodation; to those who have only a very limited space at command, the different varieties of Bantams I would recommend. The principal kinds are golden and silver-laced Sebrights, game, black and white, and Japanese.

DUCKS.—For table use exclusively, the Aylesbury stand first on the list. It attains early maturity and lays when no others do. The Rouen is a remarkably handsome duck, exactly resembling the wild duck in both sexes. Muscovy ducks are too well (and may I say unfavorably?) known to need description.—*Cor. Wilkes Spirit of the Times.*

Evil has the advantage over good, in that it is dressed in more shining robe,

The Dairy.

MAKING YELLOW BUTTER IN WINTER.

Cows that are required to subsist on straw, in which no green thing can be discovered, cannot furnish milk that will make yellow butter. Hay, whether it were made of clover, timothy or any other grass that was allowed to stand until dead ripe before cutting, will not be suitable feed for producing yellow butter. White turnips, buck-wheat bran, or even wheat bran and shorts will not furnish material for yellow butter. Many persons, aware of this fact, have mingled otter, or other coloring matter in the butter, to give it a golden color. But this is not the correct way to make yellow butter. Better by far feed carrots to the cows than to mingle them with the cream.

No difficulty is ever experienced in making yellow butter when the cows have access to grass. If the grass were cut and cured properly, little if any of the butter-producing material will be lost during the process of curing. Therefore, if the grass be cut at the most proper time of making the best quality of hay, it will produce yellow butter quite as well as if consumed before it was made into hay. It is the quality of feed that makes butter yellow or white, more than the cow; though it is not denied that the milk of some cows will make much whiter butter than others, when they all subsist on the same kind of feed. The management of the milk and cream, also, will exert nearly as much influence in producing yellow butter as the quality and kind of feed.

If a good cow having a yellowish skin be fed with first quality of red clover hay, that appears as green and fragrant as when it came from the meadow, and so on corn-stalks that have not been bleached to a light brown color, and with a few quarts of yellow Indian corn meal daily, with some carrots or turnips, and potatoes or cabbage leaves, and if proper cleanliness be observed in milking, and in the management of the cream, yellow butter can be produced in winter almost as well as during the grazing season. Still slops, dish-water, and swill, which will increase the quantity of milk, will not make yellow butter.

The cream requires excellent care in cold weather, and should be churned at least twice in every week. When cream is exposed to changes of heat and cold for several days the butter is apt to be white as lard.—*Independent.*

BUTTER MAKING IN WINTER.

For some unknown reason cream skimmed in cold weather does not come so quickly as that from the same cow in warm weather. Perhaps the little sacs of butter in the cream are thicker and tougher. There are two methods of obviating this: One is, to set the milk on the stove, or in some warm place when strained, and let it remain until quite warm—some say until a bubble or two arises, or until cream begins to rise. Another mode is to add a teaspoonful of salt to a quart of cream when skimmed. Cream thus prepared generally comes in a few minutes when churned. It is thought that salt acts upon the butter-globules and makes them tender, so that they break more easily when churned.—*Boston Cultivator.*

Corn---The Weevil.

As this is the season of the year when farmers have gathered, and are gathering their corn crops, I deem it my duty (as a farmer,) to inform them through the medium of your paper, how to secure their corn from the ravages of the weevil, which often, during the summer and fall seasons, entirely destroy whole houses of corn. As the remedy is so simple and cheap, I am in hopes no farmer will leave it untried. It is simply this: When hauling in a crop of corn, have a mixture of salt and water prepared, (say one pint of salt to a gallon of water,) and as each load is thrown into the house, sprinkle it thoroughly with the preparation, and it will entirely prevent the insect from breeding in the corn, and likewise cause it to be more palatable for stock of any kind. As I know this from experience I feel no doubt in recommending it to others.—A FARMER, in the *St. Michaels Comet.*

SPECIAL PREMIUMS.

VIRGINIA SHEEP PREMIUM.

We avail ourselves of the kind voluntary offer made by Major JOSEPH E. FICKLIN, of Culpeper Co., Virginia, who appreciating our efforts in the cause of agricultural progress, has very liberally offered to furnish a Merino Lamb, either Buck or Ewe, to the person sending to the "MARYLAND FARMER," the *Largest List of New Subscribers from the STATE OF VIRGINIA.* The number to be unlimited!

The following we extract from his kind letter:

"The Farmer has lost nothing in my one year's acquaintance. I hope for its regular arrival at the old office, Culpeper C. H. as heretofore. Nothing like the Farmer for general purposes. * * I will give you the privilege of offering a *thorough-bred Merino Lamb*, either Buck or Ewe, for the *largest number of New Subscriptions to your FARMER*, sent by any one from Virginia. The Lamb shall be out of thorough-bred "JARVIS" Ewes by one of George Campbell's (of Vermont) Merino Rams."

Virginians will send along the names—until the 1st of March next, 1867,—when the award will be made to the successful competitor.

Through the kindness of H. T. PETERS, Esq., of Howard County, Maryland, we are authorised to offer to the person sending us the *Largest Number of New Subscribers for 1867,*

A FINE MERINO RAM.

The "whole world and the rest of mankind" can compete for this premium. It is unlimited.

EXPIRED.—With the last No. of our Farmer many subscriptions expired. We would therefore remind our friends that an early remittance for the New Year will be gratefully received.

BUCKEYE JUNIOR MOWER PASSING OBSTRUCTIONS.



A lever is attached to the finger-bar and main frame, by which the driver can, with one hand, while on his seat, raise *both ends of the finger-bar* from the ground to the height of twelve or eighteen inches. If necessary, the bar can be turned up perpendicularly, as well as folded on the main frame, which enables the farmer to use the BUCKEYE to advantage among stumps, trees, or other obstructions.

A Ratchet is connected with this lever, so that when the finger-bar is raised to any required height, the driver can, with a slight twist of the lever, throw the ratchet in a catch, and thus the bar is permanently held while the machine is moving, and serves an excellent purpose for passing over cut grass and turning at the corners.

Lice on Hogs--Pruning the Blackberry.

A correspondent of Monrovia, Maryland, seeks the following information :

Can you or some one of the practical readers of your valuable monthly magazine, give me a remedy for lice on hogs, without having to handle each hog separately ? I have a fine breed of hogs, but allowing them to run in the woods in the fall, they mingled with strangers—hence the trouble.

Allow me to ask another question. Is it proper to prune the cultivated blackberry, and if to be pruned, to what extent and what is the best time to do it ?

A practical answer to the above queries will be thankfully received by a novice in rural life.

MONROVIA.

INTERESTING TO THE LADIES.—We call attention to the extracts taken from the testimony in a recent case pending before the United States Patent Office, upon the merits of *Grover & Baker's Sewing Machines*, and its relative merits as compared with other machines. They are offered for sale at their office and sales rooms, 181 Baltimore street, Baltimore.

HOP SETS.—E. France, of Cobleskill, New York, has for sale Hop Sets. Send for circular, &c.

MARYLAND SORGO CONVENTION.

By a reference to our advertising columns, it will be seen that the Maryland Sorgo Convention will assemble on Tuesday, February 5th. By samples presented us, we infer the sorgo crop of the last year an excellent one. A five gallon keg of as fine home-made syrup as we ever saw has been sent us, with promise of a box of pure cane sugar.

The importance of the sorgo crop to the farmers and planters of Maryland and adjoining States, is hard to estimate, as in many sections sorgo-syrup has entirely taken the place of a foreign article. We bespeak a full attendance of all interested, and doubt not, an interesting occasion.

FOR SALE.—J. McHenry, Esq., of Pikesville, Md., offers for sale his thoroughbred Stallion *Mars*, and Percheron Stallion *The Little Corporal*. Examine their pedigrees in advertising columns. He also offers for sale several Alderney bull calves.

SMALL FRUIT CATALOGUE.—Those interested will send ten cents to A. M. Purdy, South Bend, Indiana, and receive one of his catalogues.

Ladies Department.

JANETTE'S HAIR.

"Oh loosen the snood that you wear, Janette,
Let me tangle a hand in your hair, my pet—"
For the world to me had no daintier sight
Than your brown hair veiling your shoulders white,
As I tangled a hand in your hair my pet.

It was brown with a golden gloss, Janette,
It was finer than silk of the floss, my pet;
'Twas a beautiful mist falling down to your waist,
'Twas a thing to be braided, and jeweled, and kissed,
'Twas the loveliest hair in the world, my pet!

My arm was the arm of a clown, Janette.
It was sinewy, bristled and brown my pet,
But warmly and softly it loved to caress,
Your round white neck and your wealth of tress,
Your beautiful plenty of hair, my pet.

Your eyes had a swimming glory, Janette,
Revealing the old dear story, my pet.
They were grey, with that chastened tinge of the sky
When the trout leaps quickest to snap the fly—
And they matched with your golden hair my pet.

Your lips—but I have no words, Janette,
They were fresh as the twitter of birds, my pet,
When the spring is young, and the roses are wet
With dew drops in each red bosom set,
And they suited your golden brown hair, my pet.

Oh, you tangled my life in your hair, Janette,
'Twas a silken and golden snare, my pet,
But so gentle the bondage my soul did implore
The right to continue the slave evermore.
With my fingers enmeshed in your hair, my pet.

Thus ever I dream what you were Janette,
With your lips, and your eyes, and your hair, my pet;
In the darkness of desolate years I moan,
And my tears fall bitterly over the stone
That covers your golden hair, my pet.

MILES O'REILY.

FOR THE MARYLAND FARMER.

LOST.

BY MRS. GEORGIE A. HULSE M'LEOD.

Of all sad words whether written or spoken, the saddest is this "Lost." It comes echoing from the past a requiem for the days of youth, the sunlight of life's morning, the hopes that were born in the summer, and died before the autumn leaves withered. Who has lost from their life-casket some treasure that seemed not half so precious until it was missed from heart and home.

We remember a fair sail that went out to sea amid sunlight and song, freighted with living gems, the young and happy, the hopeful and the brave. Our prayers followed them like a benediction, and their names were murmured day by day with holy words, and thoughts of heaven.

Alas for us, vain was our watching, powerless our love to win them back! "Lost at Sea!" amid storm and darkness the ship went down, and with it those who were the joy of many a home.

Lost time, lost hopes, lost wealth, lost friends. Jewels missing from the chain of every life, robbing it of half its brightness.

Looking back upon the days gone by when all was bright, we can scarcely understand how we could have changed so sadly. Life is not what it was, earth is not what it seemed.

We have known sorrow, watching and care. We have wept over new made graves—we have seen the strong man bowed, the warrior vanquished, the hope of a proud nation fallen.

We hear the happy laugh and merry songs of little children, wondering if we were really like them in our childhood's days of joy. It seems very far away that brighter day and this which has brought to us so much of grief.

Time softens every sorrow, and it is well, for were it otherwise life would be an intolerable burden. But the heart cannot if it would forget. Amid gatherings of joy, at the bridal, and the feast, when the Christmas bells are ringing a merry peal—when the Old Year wanes, we think with a chastened sadness of our missing treasures and go forth again to the battle of life, more pure for having worshipped where once knelt our loved and lost.

Lost, only for a time—Beyond the swelling river, bending from golden heights, waving white hands, they beckon us in dreams. "Pass'd not lost! Gone, not forgot!"

Southern Literary Institute, Baltimore, Nov. 25th, 1866.

The Yankee Patent Cow Milker; or J. B. Sold Again.

On the international steamers American and English passengers come constantly into collision of wit. There is nothing our people enjoy more than to 'take down' J. B., and our worthy cousin, on whose estate the sun never sets, gives ample opportunity by his sturdy egotism to provoke an effort to 'flatten him out.'

Captain Lavender, a passenger on the Cuba, and an old salt, told two pretty good stories of this sort of warfare which he heard himself.

On one voyage to New York from Europe, a fussy and self important Englishman was constantly and impertinently obtruding his opinion as to the infinite superiority of 'his own his native land' over all others, especially over 'America.' He pushed this impudence into every sort of conversation.—Some American farmers had returned from examining the agriculture of Europe, and were talking about the ravages of the crows and blackbirds and how to prevent the waste of seeds that they made.

'Why,' interjected the cockney, 'why don't you do as we do in England?'

'How's that?' asked a farmer.

'Why,' said the cockney, 'we take sticks and dress 'em up like men, and when the crows see 'em, d'ye see, they fly away. That's the way we do it. It prevents them from coming near the fields, bless your soul!'

'Whew?' exclaimed an American, 'that's nothing. Did you ever hear of Thompson's Patent Crow Scarer?'

'No, I never did,' said the cockney, pricking up his ears; 'how is that? I don't think we have it in England.'

'Why, sir,' the Yankee answered, 'it's the darndest thing you ever see. First time it was put up in our part of the country it frightened the crows so that they fetched back all the seed they'd stolen for four years back!'

The steward in the same ship was very forward in backing up this cockney in his eulogiums on England.

He was a red-headed fellow,—said the Captain—so red that you could almost squeeze the blood out of his hair. Nothing Yankee suited him. We got a good deal annoyed at him and we meant to take him down the first chance. The passenger next me happened to complain that the milk was blue. I said—it was rather a silly thing to say, but I never thought of it—

'Oh! I suppose it's because the cow's not milked right.

We were sitting quietly on deck talking and smoking, when up came this fire-head and says to me with a great swagger:

'Sir!' says he, 'I understand, sir, you've made a remark about my work, sir, that needs explanation.' He was pretty well excited, and I didn't care to have a row; so I said, to ease him off:

'Oh! I guess not; at any rate, if I said anything, it was only in fun.'

'Yes, sir,' he says, 'you did, sir; you said, sir, that there was something wrong about the milk, sir, and that it was my fault, sir, because I'm the only officer, sir, that has charge of the cow.'

This was the old Niagara, before the condensed milk epoch.

Well—continued the captain—I felt sort of foolish in being called on to explain a sort of silly remark, and I didn't see how to get out of it without making a row. But it occurred to me to ask him:

'How do you milk the cow?'

'Why, sir,' he said, as mad as ever, 'I wash the udder and paps, sir, and then I milk into a pail and strain it myself.—How do you milk it in America?'

'Oh?' said the Captain 'that accounts for everything. No wonder the milk's blue!'

'How do you milk in America, sir!' repeated the astonished steward.

'Why we take hold of the cow's tail and pump it out of her!'

A roar from all the bystanders, Americans and British both, caused the steward to disappear.

CAN THERE BE HARM IN KISSING?

The waters kiss the pebbly shore,
The winds all kiss the hills;
The sunbeams kiss the tulip bud
For the odor it distills.

The dew-drops kiss the rose at morn,
The cereus dew at eve;
The fern and flower, in circling clasp,
Their mystic beauties weave.

The moonbeams kiss the clouds at night,
The star-gems kiss the sea;
While shadows dreamy, soft and light,
Are kissing on the lea.

The zephyrs kiss the budding pink
That blooms on beauty's lip.
And ruder blasts, through cold and chill,
Its ruby nectar sip.

The winds, the waves, the budding flowers,
The laughing, merry rills.
Are kissing all from morn till eve,
And clouds still kiss the hills.

Even Heaven and earth do meet to kiss
Through tears of sparkling dew.
In kissing, then, can there be harm?
I don't think so—do you?

RURAL SIMPLICITY.—Miss Howitt tells the following as illustrative of the simplicity of the lower orders among the Swedes:

Two servants were given tickets to go to the theatre, to which they went, and from which they soon returned. "You surely have not been" asked their mistress. "Oh, yes; we went to the theatre, and sat there till suddenly a curtain drew up and some ladies and gentlemen began talking together, but as it was on family matters we felt we were intruding, and so came home." A second anecdote concerns a contented hewer of wood and drawers of water. "Is not your work very monotonous" some one asked him. "No, there is plenty of variety in it; sometimes it's wood, and sometimes it's water."

All day long, the beautiful Snow,
Just out of heaven is flying below—
Dancing, whirling and drifting so;
Fair, oh fair as sight can be,
Come to the window, all, and see
The bright, fantastic snow!

DOMESTIC RECIPES.

MINCE MEAT.—Four pounds of suet, four pounds currants, two pounds raisins, three pounds sugar, eight lemons, one-fourth of a pound of candied peel and a few apples. So some one writes; but *our* housekeepers may think differently.

DELICIOUS DRESSING FOR ROAST FOWLS.—A lady sends us the following dressing for roast fowls, which she commends to all housekeepers who condescend to cook themselves or give orders to others:

"Spread pieces of stale but tender wheaten bread liberally with butter, and season rather highly with salt and pepper, working them into the butter a little; then dip the bread in wine, and use it in as large pieces as is convenient to stuff the bird. The delicious flavor which the wine gives is very penetrating, and it gives the fowl a rich, gamey character, which is very pleasant."

SUPERIOR DRESSING FOR CHICKEN SALADS.—Beat the yolks of 6 eggs very light, pour over them a teacup of boiling vinegar, and return to the saucepan, stirring it constantly for a few minutes, then set it away to cool. Rub a large tablespoonful of mustard with 6 spoonfulls of oil; grate in half a potato; add a teaspoonful of salt and a little pepper; harden the whites by boiling the eggs; chop them up and scatter among the salad; then stir all together and pour over just before serving. Hear what Sidney Smith said of such a dish:

"Oh tempting banquet, most delicious treat
'T would lure the dying anchoress to eat;
Back to the world he'd turn his weary soul,
And thrust his fingers in the salad bowl!"

TREATMENT OF FROSTED FEET.—To cure the intolerable itching that follows frost-bitten toes, it is necessary to totally exclude the air from the affected part. If it is not accompanied with swelling, gum shellac dissolved in alcohol, applied so as to form a complete coat, is the easiest remedy that I know of. It dries soon, and does not adhere to the stockings, and generally lasts until they are well. If the flesh becomes swollen and painful, plasters of good sticking salve are of great service, but if highly inflamed any mild poultice that will exclude the oxygen of the air from the diseased part, and keep it moist, allowing the recuperative powers of nature to do the rest.

IMPERIAL GINGERBREAD.—Rub six ounces of butter into three-quarters of a pound of flour; then mix six ounces of treacle with a pint of cream carefully, lest it should turn the cream; mix in a quarter of a pound of double-refined sugar, half an ounce of powdered ginger, and one ounce of caraway seeds; stir the whole well together into a paste, cut into shapes and stick cut candied orange or lemon-peel on the top.

CLOTHING, &c.—Woolen Flannel is the best protection against taking cold, in all seasons, if kept pliable by washing it in strong, hot soap-suds, without wringing, merely squeeze, then rinse in clear warm water, and hang on a line to drip dry.

Silks are best, next the skin, for some persons. Wash them by spreading on a board smoothly; rub on white soap; brush with a hard brush, then brush off with cold water, applied on both sides. A little alum in the last water prevents colors from "running." Grease-stains are removed from silks by using equal parts of alcohol and camphene; never wring silk after washing, because the creases thus made will always remain. While "burning-fluid," which is a mixture of alcohol and turpentine, removes grease and other stains from light-colored silks and gloves, sour milk is good for bleaching linen; but grease is best removed from carpets with strong, cold soap-suds, thus avoiding the danger of camphene.—*From Germantown Telegraph.*

ASTEROID---THE RACER.

"Asteroid," the famous racer, the property of Mr. R. A. Alexander, of Ky, while under a recent trial of speed, preparatory to his great match-race with "Kentucky," over the Fordham Tract, near New York city, fell dead lame.—He was, of course, withdrawn, and that anticipated trial of strength never exceeded in interest before since Gray Eagle and Wagner ran over Oakland, and Lexington and Le-compte went through the four mile dash at the Metaire, near New Orleans, was indefinitely postponed. The editor of the *Turf, Field and Farm*, in alluding to this sad accident, which has filled so many hearts with grief passes the following touching eulogy on this noble animal.

A bright star has faded from the racing firmament. Asteroid has run his last race, and now must retire from the field where bright laurels are won. The pride of the West has broken down, and never more will he carry the colors of Mr. Alexander to a glorious triumph. On the eve of the greatest turf event of modern times, by a severe accident he is deprived of the power of motion, and without a struggle must yield the palm of victory to his illustrious rivals. In his strength and pride, with the future looming grandly before him, he is cut down in a moment, like the flowers by a sudden frost, and with drooping crest must pass sadly from the gaze of admiring eyes to where the clouds hang heaviest and darkest. His star has set, and the other orbs glow less brightly in the sky, for with the radiant light of heaven, faded a world of splendor. He journeyed more than a thousand miles to meet his great rivals and put forth a noble effort—make a mighty struggle for the championship of the American turf, and the ink is scarcely dry that recorded his arrival at Jerome Park, before the pen must perform the sad duty of reporting him unable to appear in the great Inauguration race. He was in perfect health a few days ago, and was one of the finest pictures of a magnificent race horse that mortal eyes ever gazed upon, and now he is but a wreck of his former self. On Saturday he showed signs of lameness, and early on Sunday morning, he was pulled up from a short brush with the power of one limb destroyed. He sprung the tendon of the right fore leg so severely that he will never be able to stand the preparation for another race. On Thursday last they run him a trial in the mud, galloped him again in the mud on Friday, and it is thought that the sprain, which was so fully developed on Sunday, originated in one of these trials on the heavy track. The horse was in splendid condition and his trial run was so satisfactory that Mr. Alexander was inspired with the greatest confidence. Had no accident occurred, he claims that the winner of the Inauguration race would have had to have beaten Lexington's famous four mile time by several seconds. On Sunday morning, Ford, who was riding him, when he pulled him up and found how severe was the accident, dropped the reins upon the neck of the high spirited horse, and burst into tears.—Marius, we are told, wept over the ruins of Carthage, and the poet has commemorated the act in melodious verse. Manly, then, were the tears that fell upon the mane of the great Asteroid, for eyes never wept—not even those of Marius—over a grander fall—a more magnificent wreck.—All of our glorious anticipations, on the eve of their being realized, have been destroyed. For more than a year the East has waited to welcome Asteroid to the theatre of Kentucky's triumphs, and ere the welcome is complete, they bid him farewell as he sadly returns to the West, not with gorgeous plumage gaily flaunting in the wind and wearing the badge of victory, but with drooping head and banner trailing in the dust. He leaves us, not like Wellington

returning from Waterloo, but like Boabdil, the proud Moorish king, yielding up his possessions to the victorious Spaniards, and retiring from the regal halls of his ancestors. He goes from us with fallen crest, but with a proud unbroken spirit. He has won his last victory upon the race course, and henceforth will revel in the delights of the harem and win new victories there. He will find the victories of peace far sweeter than those of war, yet, with sadness we record his retirement from the field of glorious strife. The blood of Asteroid will course through other veins, and when we find one of his scions equaling the greatness of the sire, then, like a wandering Pleiad, we will hail another brilliant star to reign in a constellation as bright as the Milky Way. Farewell, mighty conqueror of the West, prince of royal blood, and son of a noble sire, though you cannot wear the laurels of the East, your brow is crowned with a wreath of deathless fame; and voices that would have applauded you in the hour of victory, still applaud thy game spirit, shout "Well done, hero," and lips falter o'er and o'er again—farewell!"

PRACTICAL FARMER.—"Morris' Rural Advertiser," which has just completed its third volume, will, on the first of January, 1867, be increased to double its former size, and be issued monthly, in quarto form, of sixteen pages, under the above title. It will treat of the Farm and Garden, Horticulture, Floriculture, Veterinary Practice, Live Stock, and every department of Rural Economy.—Price, \$1 per annum. Address Paschall Morris, 1120 Market street, Philadelphia, Pa.

FISH GUANO.—James Pryer & Co., 190 Front street, New York, offer to our people Fish Guano in any quantity.

RECEIVED from Randolph Peters, Newark, Delaware, his descriptive Catalogue of Fruit and Ornamental Trees and Plants, cultivated and for sale at Fruitland Garden and Nursery.

A STORY is told of a millionaire of New York who was importuned by his ambitious wife to have the family coat of arms emblazoned upon the panels of the new carriage. At length the gentleman consented to gratify her; saying he would sketch the design himself. Taking a pen, the millionaire drew something resembling a small mound; by it was stuck a manure fork, and upon the fork was perched Chanticleer, rampant.

"Why, what is this?" asked madam, in amazement.

"This," said the man of money, "is our family coat-of-arms. My grandfather made his money carting manure in Brooklyn, and invested it in real estate in New York. Now listen to the explanation of the arms. This mound and fork represent my grandfather's occupation; the cock perched upon the top of the fork represents myself, who have done nothing but flap my wings and crow on that dunghill ever since."

It is almost unnecessary to state that this decidedly original coat-of-arms was never painted upon the millionaire's carriage, which has a plain panel to this date.